

Free
april 1997
issue 14

METAL RULES

SKRATCH

**#1 METAL/GLAM
MAGAZINE**

orange county
los angeles san diego
inland empire
san francisco



KISS

MÖTLEY CRÜE



THIS ISSUE RIPS!

TO ALL OUR READERS,

After publishing SKRATCH for a long-winded 15 months, my partner and I unfortunately find ourselves very uninspired and worthless. Don't get me wrong, we enjoy covering the local punk/ska/hardcore/indie scene and we think it provides you, our readers with valid information. However, we have come to realize there is a time when you just have to hang it up and "close shop." We are very sorry, but we cannot do this anymore. We love you all and will never forget you. And again, we repeat, we are very sorry.

In short, we have sold-out. For 15 months, we successfully portrayed a strong interest in the local and national punk/ska/hardcore/indie scene. Using the power of the media, we utilized the tools of manipulation. We strategically created the illusion we are down for the scene. Well, no more. We can't go on like this. Dan (my partner) and I have gone to great lengths to pretend and "play the part" that we are die-hard punk and ska enthusiasts. We have gone to great lengths to imitate you (the true punk/hardcore/ska fan). We monitored your behavior at shows, your style of dress, your mannerisms and copied it. We became one of you and we now face tremendous regrets and offer our apologies.

To hell with it all. We will no longer portray this facade of caring or supporting the scene. We hate punk and ska and all this crap. Our magazine is just a mirror reflection of what you wanted, not what we wanted. We tampered with your scene. Isn't it perfect-A publication filled with lies bottled up with backwash spit out to the masses monthly? Our 15 months of guilt must now lay to rest. The games are over. We have lived and breathed an "Artificial Life."

SKRATCH from this day on is going to cater to a music scene we truly share a passion for- Metal and glam music. Poison, Motley Crue, Def Leppard, White Lion, Stryper, and Krokus---now that's real music. The bands that can rip it up and shred like there's no tomorrow. April 1997 is here and punk, ska, and hardcore is on its' way out and metal and glam rock is on its' way in. So, sorry. Pick up a Mean Street or a Ice-9 if you wanna read about punk or ska or hardcore. Pick up SKRATCH if you want balls-out-metal glam mayhem that'll rock your ass in a manic frenzy. Grow out your hair and live for metal. Come join SKRATCH and be a part of the new scene, the real scene. Let's rock. The good shit is coming back like a bat outta hell and we're ready to cover it. Rock-n-roll baby!

Thanks for all your loyalty,

Scott Presant -editor/publisher

THE NEW UNDERGROUND BY TORMENTED SCREAM OF CORRUPTED DEATH ANGELS

Fucking rippin'! A new format change for Skratch Magazine and I'm creaming in my skin tight leopard skin leathers. I am so damned pumped to finally quit covering that other punk shit that I can hardly speak. Not that all the crank I've been doing to get jacked up for the new metal format makes it hard to talk, but that I'm just tired of pretending I knew what I was talking about with all that punk shit. We can finally concentrate on the rippin', kick ass bands with lots of props to us and articles which are really about me, and how much all the flashin' slashin' musicians (who really rock) dig me!

Okay, so, anyways, listen up everyone! The glory is back! Death to punk and alternative! No more of these weird indie rock bands who are trying to say something (I guess!). Like, whatever, guy! Come on! Get over it! Fuckin' party like there's no tomorrow, and then, when there is, well we only have to get through the daytime and then it will be nighttime again and the limo will be here!

Fuck, I hope I'm not jumping around too much, but I'm really jacked up 'cause I'm going to Gecko's tonite for KNAC night and you KNOW I'm going to here AC/DC, Great White, and all my favorites...fuckin' rockin'! I might wear a wig 'cause I just quit my band Unit F and now I'm going to grow my hair out and shave that fucked up goatee, and fuck those guys they play to fast and hard anyways! And that fucked up song they always do at the end of their set-Acting Like Black Sabbath, well, fuck that...they only wish they were as good as Black Sabbath with real fireballs and a real, killer stage show.

Yea, man, that's right fuck them. Cause now I'm going to meet the real OZZY, and party with Ronnie Dio, and all those bad ass mothers! Shit, I'm so fucking excited I can't even remember all the bands I'm planning to party with! Fucking fuck! Yea! Whooh-hoo! Klink city, here I come! Let's rock out with small groups of select, gigantic titted-small waisted slut rock chicks in dingy back rooms of small duplexes in Crow Village behind close doors while the legions of wannabee guitar legends mill about the kegger outside wishing they could have as much coke as I do to get real close to the lead singers of their favorite bands!

Yeah, lets rock it hard Skratch! Oh, oh yea, and there's death metal-thats really happening too...fuck yeah! Fuckin' Fuck! Yea!!!! I'm so excited I can't even remember their names, you know all the bands with those cool letters which look like, well, how the fuck should I know WHAT the hell they look like, I can't even read them anyways. Its, almost like, their too sinister, man. I can't even look at them because I'll quickly become demonized and have to move to Corona...where I'll fucking party with those guys like the bad ass demon I know I can be! Fuck yeah! Fuckin' fuck, YEA! Cannable Corpse! Thats it! Thats one of the bands! Death Metal, fuckin Yea!

Okay, Okay. Fuck yeah! The limo's going to be here any fucking minute so I have to hurry. Each second feels like a fucking second and I'm ready to race through the night!! Dig it! Yea! So, I have no clue whose going to pay for this, probably some fucking promoter who wants to get as close to Slash as I do, so you know we'll be swimming in blow...cause we're going to The Rox, and then to the Viper, and fuck, man we're going to do it right. Gene Simmons is suppose to be there. Goddam, I can't wait to get rolling, so I'm going to gag down a quick warm up line. Yea! Fuck Yeah!

Oh, oh, so anyways! This is like a new format change, and like fuck that other shit, I want music I can party too...you know, like me and the lead singers from bands like Spiders and Snakes: see, there's another one I remembered! And its like, there I know lots of these bands, cool bands, like tribute bands and shit...and its like, I guess I'm just too jacked up right now, too excited...what the fuck! I'm going to party with Bush! Yea! fucking fuck! And a bunch of other bands too! Who cares who they are when they wear all that make-up and shit! Fuck! How cool its that!

'Cause I dig bands that rock! And rock hard! Guitarists who shred...like, well like Slash and that Satriani freak, and like all of Queensryche....Fuck yeah! Hey the limos, here and its like, I got alotta places to be right now all night tonite! Yea! Fuck Yeah! Sunset here I come...its the new underground, the Metal underground...lets rip it up!

Watch for me too, cause like I'm going to be hanging out with a lot of these ripping guitarists, and like, singers, real singers who can fully scream! Attitude a must! No flakes (except the shiny ones ready for my nose!) So lets rage fully in the new underground, the one filled with so much pussy and so much big hair that we'll all destroy ourselves! Yea! Fuck Yeah! Destroy! Cool! Okay, keep watching for me, cause I'll be like hanging out alot with guys wearing black leather and shit, like at the Roxy and the Whiskey, and all over the strip 'cause I got friends, see. Friends who rock, and like, are rockin' the death rock trip hard, and like they'll be playing tonite...its all set! They just gotta sell these tickets see, and well, call me about it. Okay! And watch for me too! Okay, ok. Gotta go..Party!

DAZZLE

DAZZLE consists of:

Fantasia (contagious vocals)
Jay Z. (rippin guitar)
Ray Bones (furiously fast bass)
Scotti Roxx (flawless lead guitar)
Mikey Biggs (pound me hard drums)

Fortunately, I was able to catch up to L.A.'s very own Dazzle. All I can say is they rock! I talked to them in the dressing room at The kick ass Whiskey. We talked a lot and I really feel they are not in it just for the chicks (or the guys), but they play from the heart. Dazzle is true to their game and play to packed venues on a weekly basis. Check them out cause they rip out the best tunes since Judas Priest.
Here's the fucking interview you fags!

SKRATCH: I like your singer she rules! Any hobbies?

Jay Z: Drinkin' beer and playing for money to buy more beer.

Fantasia: Teasing my hair, twiddling my hair, and trying out new hair products.

Ray Bones: Shooting cans, smokin', hangin' with Jack Daniels that is, and my chicks for free.

Scotti Roxx: Cruising the strip on my harley and giving babes a "ride," and practicing good hygiene.

Mikey Biggs: Me eat and bang all day. Cheetos ummm... good. Farts, yep, of course. Fuck off. Uhhhh, Hi mom. Rock-n-roll yup.

Manager (Nick sexx): I'd like to add that I first saw this band in 78' and the energy they created at their sold-out Troubadour show was like an explosion of sound I've never witnessed before. Rock n-roll louder than a screaming 747 with more whiplash than a car crash. Their songs are an intellectual reflection of the troubled youth our nation faces today. Take "Apple Pie" for instance, "In the streets the love and fear, I want you back sweet like sugar, the love thermometer is rising, and I want you to bake again- my Apple Pie." And then there's a crowd pleaser called "Cheetos." People just don't understand the importance of snack foods.

SKRATCH: Exactly. I know what you mean.

SKRATCH: What are your influences?

Ray Bones: I like a lot of Poison and Motley Crue. **ROCK-N-ROLL BABY!** If it fucking has balls I got it on cassette. You know what I mean. Also, the bitches influence me to help write some of the ballads. You know that sappy shit that the chicks eat up.

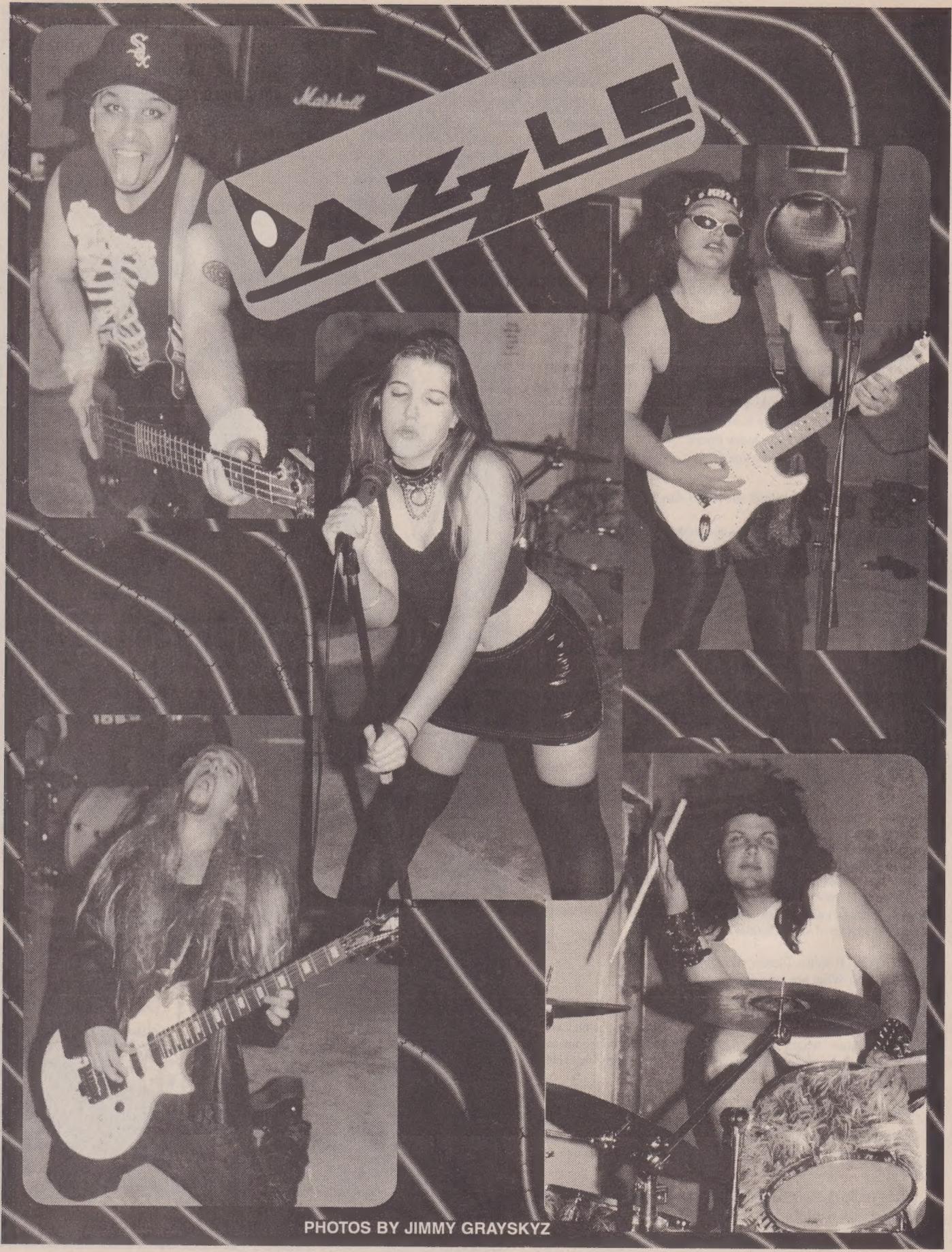
Mikey: I know, yup (translation: yes)

Fantasia: No, I don't think that's our message. We write what comes out from our souls, from our spirit. It all is pure emotion.

Mikey (Burps): Shut the hellup (hell up). We just wanna rock. I wanna rock right now.



PHOTO BY
JIMMY GRAYSKEY



PHOTOS BY JIMMY GRAYSKYZ

SKRATCH: I here DAZZLE may get signed soon to Sony. Is that true?

Scotti Roxx: I hope so. Then, I'll buy some more harleys. We'll be raking in the dough. Let it rain. Let it rain.

Mikey: More cheetos.

Jay Z: Then I can buy out the fucken Pabst brewery and drink my own shit. Fuck it.

SKRATCH: So, what do you see on the horizon for the band?

Fantasia: Getting a new touring van.

Scotti Roxx: A tour with Krokus and Dokken would rock. Shit that would be cool huh?

Mikey: Lots more bitches and that itch to go away.

SKRATCH: That itch?

Fantasia: Don't ask!

Jay Z: Drinkin a case of brew in one sitting and pissing it out like a machine.

Mikey: More bitches.

Ray Bones: A lot more bimbos showing up and screamin at me from the front row and I wanna shake hands with Axl Rose. That son-of-a-bitch sings like rock n roll heaven!

Fantasia: What about me?

Mikey: Shut up chick!

SKRATCH: Well, I think your voice is just fine.

Jay Z: We would have kicked her out, but she brings more people through the door. Then, we get more drink tickets. What's better than having a little bimbo in the bunch anyway.

Mikey: I can sing you fuckers.

SKRATCH: Have you guys ever been offered a show at the Galaxy? They're really cool over there. Great sound and security!

Jay Z: I dunno. I wouldn't mine if there's a lot of blondies there. We once played at Koo's though- that's in Santa Ana right?

Mikey: Santa Claus? Is it fucken X-mas already?....uhhhhh....uhhhh.....

SKRATCH: Yes, it is- Santa Ana.

Ray Bones: I remember NO BREWS AND NO CUES!

SKRATCH: Was there some controversy about your name DAZZLE?

Fantasia: Well, we had to change it from Razzle because some other band already had it. We almost changed it completely to LIT.

SKRATCH: Upcoming shows?

Mikey Biggs: We're playing at the umm.. the ...Hey bitch we're in here! (He calls to his girlfriend)

Fantasia: Come Check us out at The ROXY April 18th w/Dokken, The WHISKEY April 27th w/Doughboy, and at The TROUBADOR May 4th w/ Poison. I hope you can all come.

SKRATCH: Well, hmmmm... I'll be there Fantasia.

Fantasia: I hope so. (Giggles)

SKRATCH: Thank you DAZZLE. You guys rock L.A. in a big way!



GET CLOSE AND PERSONAL TO DAZZLE'S BASSIST, RAY BONES.

I'll be doing a demo at Guitar center in Covina on April 11th at 7pm. The first 50 people wearing Dazzle bandanas or wristbands get a free autographed pick. Show up early you sorry asses!

- LOVE,
RAY BONES

new metal order

New Metal Order Interview
by Bruce Kolberg

B: Bruce- Skratch
T: Tommy- guitar NMO
R: Rock- singer NMO
S: Sticky- drummer NMO



B: What are your names and what do you play?
Sticky Lixx, I play the drums and NES. Rock
Tchiacocksky, I'm s-i-n-g-e-r. Tommy Torpedo, I play guitar. Tito Navaho plays bass, he's not here because he was in Mexico getting electrolysis done on his ass crack so he could wear a g-string at the beach and not offend anyone with his hairy ass. The problem came when he was stopped at the border they denied him entrance without a green card, he's been trying to sneak across and we'll pick him up as soon as he calls collect or hitches a ride from some Coyotes and we'll pay the Coyotes off cheap because they'll be sick of him quick.

B: That's too bad to hear. Tell Frito I said "what's up."
B: How did you guys hook up with each other?

R: We used to go to KNAC Night at the Red Onion and we had this mutual friend, Eric Testicle, who suggested we get together to jam.

B: Why do you call him Eric Testicle?
T: He's a fuckin' testicle, what of it, is he your friend?
B: No, the only Eric I know I took his RKL greatest hits because he wouldn't give me a ride to get it. All's fair because he burned me for \$20.
T: Sounds like it could be the same guy. Anyway next question preppie.
B: Where have you guys been on tour?
R: We went on tour of the United States with Rob Halfords

(Judas Priest) new band "Fight" but noone showed up so we bailed out on them and hooked up with Cinderella and the Bullet Boys.

S: Those guys can really party. One night we were in the hotel room and they ordered roomservice and when the dude came with the nachos and shrimp cocktail we turned out the light and were quiet.

R: We didn't answer the door so the dude took it back. We waited a few then called room service and complained about how long the service was taking. Man, it was really funny.

B: Oh, I guess you had to be there. Where do you guys play and who are some o the bands you've played with?

T: We have a couple bands that we play with regularly, Spoiled Rotten and Joe Daddy are the mother fuckers we rock with most. We all played at the 18th annual "Band Your Head for Muscular Dystrophy" benefit concert at the Pineapple Cheeser.

R: The kicker was that Slaughter and Dioar the crown of metal.

T: He will be king forever, that's why I have him tattooed on my fingers.

B: What does NMO mean?

T: New Metal Order, fucken-A bro it's bad ass.

T: When we started we figured out where we wanted the band to go and we realized we wanted to take to the world. Like the New World Order, But

we're the New Metal Order.

R: We're here to metalize all nations on the globe then there's gonna be some chicks for us you know we're studs.

B: What have you done since the completion of your first



album " ?"

R: There's been alot of kick ass things going on, like we

went on tour, did another album, partied with our idols, but there was a dark day that will live as the day the music died.

B: Oh, sorry my condolences, that's right Jerry Garcia's dead.

R: No, fuck that fat old hippie and his flock of stinky VW driving rejects.

T: Dude don't you know KNAC went off the air.

B: Fucken-A, I know the pain your feeling I was there once. Do you want to tell us what happened?

T: It was like this, I'll make it short,

KNAC went off the air and we were devastated. The last song they played was "Fade to Black" by Metallica, now every time I hear that song I think about how rad KNAC was.

R: KNAC Nights and pickin' up on chicks, those were the days.

B: You claim there's buzz around town that you guys are heavy metals newest and hot prospect, how does it feel to be considered the "Metal Messiahs" as Hit Parader stated in their Hot 100 Rockers issue?

T: It's total kicker dude, Cuz we're like totally cool with that label man.

R: Dude, it's just so amazing to us because we were between records and we got a letter telling us we got the "Best New Band" award for '97.

*: We thought it was a joke until they sent us an invitation to go to their awards dinner to accept the award.

B: I take it you guys went?

T: Fucken-A, you bet your candy ass we went. It was too

bitchen for words man. I was sittin at the same table as Jani Lane (singer of Warrant) and Stephen Perry (singer of Ratt) and their chicks. I kept farting all night, it was the bag of pork rinds and the 2 quarts of Miller High Life that I downed that morning that made me feel that way. I wasn't nervous no matter what they say.

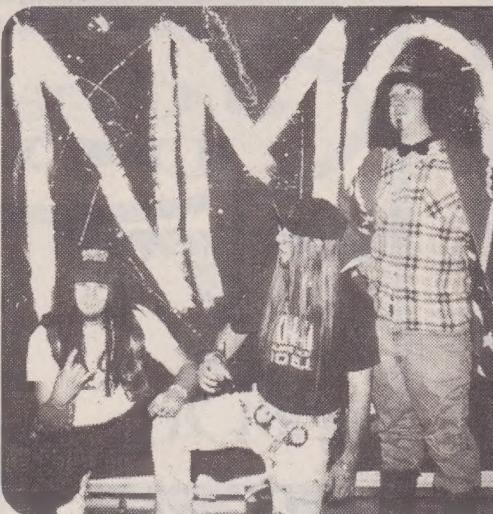
B: Where did the rest of you guys sit at the awards banquet?

T: I sat with Kevin Dubrow and Carlos Cavazzio of "Quiet Riot" and their girlfriends. Kevin Dubrow was wearing a wig man, I swear. He had this hat on and when the hat moved the hair moved like this, (moves his hat to the left and hair raises on right,) cuz people kept rubbin' his head when they walked by, they were totally wasted, everyone was wasted.

S: I sat with the drummer from Def Leopard and Dee Snider of Twisted Sister. Then Sticky snuck in and sat with us.

T: Oh yeah, that wasn't very cool at all. Like the security said I wasn't permitted to enter because there was a dress code and I wasn't up to code if you know what I mean.

R: Dude, they didn't let you in cuz you smelled like an Arab



that was locked inside of a gas station pay cubicle, ya dank gorilla.

R: Anyway you arm wrestled the one armed drummer and lost. Ha ha ha, you lost.

S: He has only one arm so you know he must use it all the time. That arm is very strong. I'd call it a draw when he tripped, when you tripped him. And tell em what you asked him later that night.

R: I asked him if he ever has any problems servicing himself and he told me sometimes he loses his balance and falls over, but no serious injuries or problems.

B: Was anything else notable that evening?

S: For sure bro, Alice Cooper got the "Lifetime Achievement" award for his constant devotion to metal.

T: They let us give out the award for "Most improved cocaine addict in a hard rock act." Anyway, it was Bret Michaels of Poison and that mutha was super shitty. He puked 2 minutes before he went up to accept the award.

B: Man I thought heavy metal was dead and now I find out this...

T: Dude, what do you think heavy metal is? Man, you are so fuckin wrong.

S: It's not dead! Man, I remember when punk was dead. When metal had MTV or er, MTV were the dual headliners. Fucken awesome bro, rockin for Jerry's kids.

S: We play at a few local places. We dig Gazzarris in Hollywood. They said we paid on time and played on time. Who says there's anything bad about pay to play clubs...not me.

R: My favorite is definitely the Cobra Room it's cool, my old fave was O.C.'s Jezebel's. I saw a really awesome band there once, they were called Rotten Wild. I wish I knew what happened to those baggers.

S: They sucked, they couldn't play fer shit, sounded like my grandpa farting into a loud speaker.

T: yer just jealous cuz that guy played drums and you play the dogs bone.

B: Where did you start from?

R: When the scene, that is the heavy metal movement started to back slide we decided to revive our true love, Metal man.

T: In the true style of our trailblazing mentors like Twisted Sister, Motley Crue, Dangerous Toys...

S: ...Guns-n-Roses, Merciful Fate with King Diamond and of course

T: Ozzy Osborne

R: The Oz man will always kick some hard metal ass, can you remember when Motley Crue's "Home sweet home," was #1 on the daily countdown 32 weeks in a row?

S: It's not that it's dead it's like metal has just gone underground, it creeps along.

Interuption Telephone ringing

T: Yeah, I'll accept. Guys it's a collect call from Tito, we've got to go.

B: Is there anything Tito want to say, we'll give him the last word.

Tito: Hey, I'm ready to be picked up. I'm at the Jack in the Box just on the other side of the U.S. borders. Hurryll think about how rad KNAC was. Full Metal Jacket

-Bruce Veils

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RATT AND POISON AT THE ORANGE PAVILION
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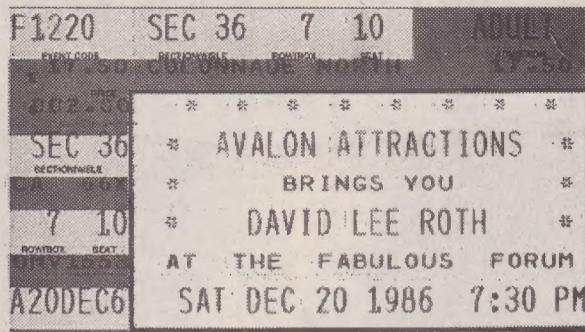
was very lucky that I arrived in time to see Poison because I had a long list of things to do before. My list is as follows:- this is fucking killer! I brushed and teased my blonde curly hair (this took almost an hour). A good chunk of about 20 minutes was spent running all over my Sunset Blvd. 1 bedroom apt to find my ripped KNAC tank top. That shirt rules, so I deem this part of preparation more than necessary (then again my hair is most important)-Rockin! What else? I Had to eat dinner, so I grabbed a bag of frito's and a Bud and was ready to roll. No, not really, I mean not yet. I had to get my dosage of a little Iron Maiden. Yes!!! Cranked that up to about 11, kicked the dog out of the way and finally I was ready to drive 50 miles to Orange from Hollywood.

Now, to the show! YEAH! Poison played most of the tracks off their excellent "Look What The Cat Dragged In" record. CC Deville and Brent were in fine form, and the show was well choreographed. There were bitchin fireworks, and CC's hair looked rad. I was jealous (I heard that he has his hair done on Melrose). Brent was wearing black lycra pants, a ripped white t-shirt, and a black leather jacket with really cool tassels. A band like this will never go out of style.

Next up was the infamous Ratt. Steven Perry is so fucking boss! He was all over the stage. Ratt played all the hits off of "Out of The Cellar" like "Round and Round" and "You Think You're Tough." The crowd went nuts. There was less fireworks than Poison, but their stage performance was incredible. They fucking rocked!
KNAC RULES!

Jonny Rocket

DAVID LEE ROTH AT THE FABULOUS FORUM -
12/20/86



Whoever thinks that there is no life after Van Halen for David Lee Roth, has another thing coming. David played to a sell out crowd at the Forum, and he fucking rocked! Most of the songs he played were off his recent "Eat em and Smile" album. David put on a bitchin stage performance, disappearing from the stage at times, and reappearing in a boxing ring in the middle of the crowd. It's apparent that David would be making a mistake by going back to Van Halen. Judging by his performance, he is definitely bound for greatness. And do I have to say there was enough heshin' chicks to go around.

KNAC RULES!

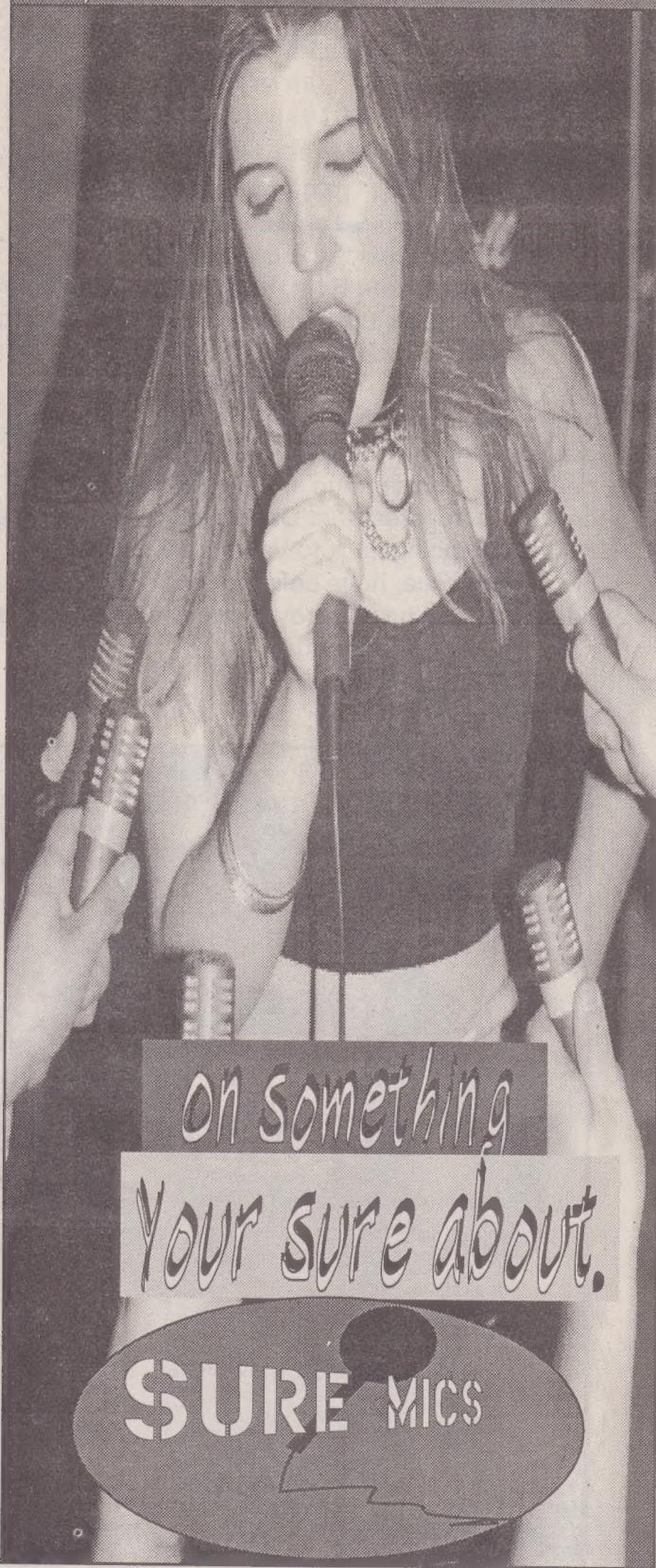
-Jonny Rocket

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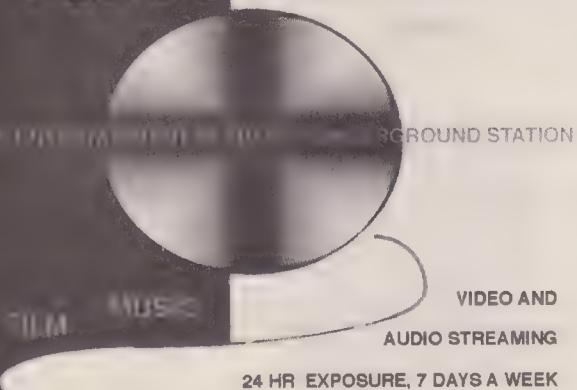
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With rippin' guitar hooks, loud and crazy drums, and powerful driving vocals, Motley Crue delivers a powerful punch to my make-up covered face. Almost knocked my hair spray right out. This is a great disc by the quartet. This is a worthwhile CD to buy if you love the group, big hair doused in Aquanet, make-up, and just rockin' out all night. Beware of the title track "Dr. Feelgood", it'll knock you off your ass.

-Big Haired Baker



MOTLEY CRUE THEATRE OF PAIN ELEKTRA RECORDS

This is what Glam Rock is all about!! The solos, the drums, the vocals are one, big, tight, leather wearin' package. It has hummable melodies especially "Smokin' in the Boy's Room". I like this better than the last Warrant disc I bought. Put your eyeliner down, grab your leather pants, and buy this now!!!

-Big Haired Baker



MOTLEY CRUE SHOUT AT THE DEVIL ELEKTRA RECORDS

Shout at the devil!!! That is exactly what I am going to do because he is the only one who could bring me something this rippin'. Blast it louder than hell!! "Shout at the Devil" is my new anthem. Other awesome tracks are "Helter Skelter" and "Red Hot". If you haven't used all your money on hairspray or make-up, then use it to buy this!!

-Big Haired Baker



DAZZLE BANG YOUR HEAD L.A. SUNSET BLVD. RECORDS

Well, what is there to say about the hardest rockin' band around? They certainly kick some fucken ass! This cd not only inspired me to let my hair grow another 8 inches, but also, I am now eating more snack foods like Cheetos. There's a fucken segway--"Cheetos" is a great song off this sophomore album. Lyrics like "Bite off more than you can chew" and "Eat em up like a buttercup" rocks me like I haven't been rocked before. Fantasia's sweet voice makes me moist as a Duncan Hines brownie. You rock Fanny!

This five-piece are tighter than my leather pants and Mikey Biggs may be the best drummer in the biz. Vince Neil are you reading this-watch out! So, do I have to tell you to get off your scrawny asses and budget your hair products this month and buy this album? I didn't think so. Rock on fuckers!

-Joey Scum Balls



ZZTOP ELIMINATOR WARNER BROS.

This just jammed! I couldn't stop air guitarin' every lead throughout the CD. "Got Me Under Pressure" rocks! And the song "Legs", man-o-man! That video with those hotties- yeah she got legs- she knows how to use them! I wanna be that guy in the video- too cool! ZZ-Top rules!

-Ray Bones



QUEENSRYCHE HEAR IN THE NOW FRONTIER EMI RECORDS

This kicks ass. Where's KNAC when you need it man? Although these Seattle-ites (Seattle, WA residents), have been out of the public eye for a while they are back to bang heads across the nation, then the world. Their music still rocks. Even though some of 'em cut their locks, the loss of hair doesn't effect their distinct Queensryche sound. Totally rad vocals complete this progressively metal pop band. The seriousness of the songs made my brain think too hard. They sound like classic Zeppelin one minute and the next they're rock'n like Alice-n-Chains. Geoff Tate sings like an angel sent by God to resurrect heavy metal.

-John Paulhard



TWISTED METAL VARIOUS 1990 K-TEL

This comp is pretty fucking cool. Quiet Riot's "Cum on feel the noise" and Ozzy's "Crazy Train" (YEAH--I-I-I-I Crazy Train!!!!), and Ted Nugent's "Yank me, crank me (live)", are just a few of the reasons this album rules. Even Twisted Sister's track rips (they always rock). The Metal Church and King Diamond songs are probably my guitar instructor favorites. I still can't get over the fact so many songs are on one album. I can't wait till they put it on cassette! Spend your hard earned cash on this. If you are even thinking of cutting your hair, then you don't deserve this treat from the all mighty rockin' Gods. KNAC will be playing this one a lot because the girls are gonna get wet when they here Twisted Metal, I know I did. Balls out!

-Jonny Rocket



BEST OF 80'S METAL VOLUME 1 VARIOUS PRIORITY

If you're sick of compiling your own favorite metal tracks today, buy this comp. It fucking rocks! Twisted Sister, Poison, Ratt, Scorpions, Cinderella, White Snake, Warrant, Krokus, need I say more? There's not one shitty track. I blast this thing in my 69 Camaro on Balboa Blvd, and chicks go fucking wild. KNA-fucking C!!!

-Jonny Rocket



KISS DESTROYER CASABLANCA RECORDS

KISS kicks serious ass! This was a mind blowin' album! I just put my fist in the air at the end 'cause it was so fuckin' cool! Detroit Rock City (I gotta move there one day) was like... train smashing thru a brick wall- Ka-blam! I tripped out on "God of Thunder", there was this kid talking and it was in the song! I was trippin'! The guy was like singing and he sounded cool- like he was really a god of thunder! Rad! There was this song called "Shout It Out Loud"...so i did. Yeah! Rock-n-frickin'-Roll!

These guys rip! But then of course they have a sensitive romantic side too- like "Beth" I almost cried it was sad. It's just what I was tell my chick. Overall, this was the best album I have ever laid my ears on- KISS rules!

-Ray Bones

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I think I like the metal issue better. Maybe we should change. Change is good especially when your at the soda machine and you like wanna get a soda and you dig into your pocket and you say hey I got 1.75 in quarters to get that Citrus-surprise-Lemon-Lime with aftertaste-now with nutrasweet beverage and realize you only got a nickel. I need some sleep. And always remember, no news is less news.

-scott present

The editor does not necessarily share the opinions expressed in this publication. When asking the editor a question, he may not answer. If he acts like he gives a shit, he may be pretending.

Skratch,

3 - 20 - 97

I'm writing you in regards to an article in your March issue. About the show that occurred on 2-21-97 at Backalley. The bands were Grover's Headache, JFC, Channel 6, My Other Brother Darryl, One In A Million, and Course Of Ruin. The article apparently was written by a K.C.? or whatever. It just seemed funny to me how every band that played that night pretty much got a bad review except for JFC which happens to be "signed" (or whatever you want to call it) to your Skratch/Vegas Records. Now I know that all the bands that did play that night SUCKED (I should know I was in one of them, and we suck), and included in those bands that sucked was JEFFERIES FANCLUB! I know this may just have been the writers opinion but it seems pretty funny to me that they got the only good review. Because as I'm sure you'll eventually figure out THEY DO SUCK. The scene has gotten incredibly monotonous and boring with all these ska/punk bands doing the same shit, that includes JFC! (First off I'm prejudice towards them because before they began playing shows I saw a flyer at Bionic in Cypress that read "Coming Soon: Jefferies Fanclub" I don't understand how a band can be so egotistical that they would think they're some special addition to the scene! - THEY ARE FUCKING BORING!!!! - and if their singer is gonna hold a fucking guitar the whole set he should at least play it more than twice for two little cheesy leads!!!! And second of all, when I was leaving the show, JFC and friends seemed to take a liking to my car and ceased to want to get off it even after I started the engine, finally they got off but decided to leave all their cups and shit on my bumper. I guess they were just too cool to be nice and let me back out, oh well?) I don't think zines like yours are doing anything to be original and show that there is more than just PUNK and SKA out there. In your Punk Vs. Ska CD (that is just a bunch of ads rather than info on the music!) it says "This CD is dedicated to the OC scene". That's funny, why aren't any other facets of music covered in the CD, it's just punk and ska!!!! Other stuff does exist. I know I happen to be in a band that plays Ska punk or whatever, but believe me, I don't like it (I know this makes me a hypocrite, but I just enjoy playing drums and this band is what's available). However I do play another instrument in another band which is more my type of stuff (heavier rock, punk not punk rock, depressing pop type stuff), but I won't name us 'cause I'm not writing this for promotional reasons. These are simply just my opinions. Just one more topic to go. Also in your March issue you printed The DAS KLOWN answering machine message. Is this you giving in to them or you mocking their EGOTISTICAL asses. That whole display seemed rather pathetic. I don't understand who the fuck they think they are, (Das Klowne - but who cares!!!!) their name wasn't on the cover so they have to cry about!!! Jesus Christ!, another band with a EGO, why does everyone think they're so cool? Anyways, I don't think it was made clear what the point of that article was. Are you kissing their ass (to stay off their shit list - OH NO!) or making fun of their Egos. I'm hoping it's the second one.

-----R.H.

Dear R.H.,

You are entitled to your opinion and I am entitled to mine, but do not presume that my reviews on bands would be affected by any affiliation they may have with Skratch. If I would purposely give a good review on a band to benefit Skratch, don't you think I would also "suck up" to Channel 6 and Grover's Headache who happen to be on the Skratch *Punk vs. Ska* compilation? Wouldn't that be in the best interests of Skratch as opposed to the not so positive review they were given? JFC is signed to Vegas Records, which is a separate entity from Skratch altogether. I do agree that egotistical people in bands should get a reality check, but if you have a personal prejudice against JFC and their so-called egos, then take that up with the band.

Perhaps the scene is getting infused with an incredible number of ska/punk bands, but what did you expect? This genre of music



that has been brewing in SoCal, has suddenly taken off, and gone mainstream. With local bands like No Doubt, Reel Big Fish, and Save Ferris getting major record deals (and tons of money), of course they are going to spawn other ska bands with that same dream in mind. But Skratch cannot dictate what music these bands in the local scene play. Take it or leave it, this is our scene, ska/punk/whatever, and if it's so "incredibly monotonous" to you then don't listen! Try to convince the hordes of young people who go to these "boring" shows to watch these "boring" bands otherwise. Try to convince them that the music really sucks and is incredibly boring while they are skanking like crazy, having loads of fun, and smiling at you wearing their new JFC t-shirt.

-K.C.

Dear R.H. (We know who you are),

Hello there camper. Thanks for writing us a letter. We appreciate our readers to drop us a line and voice their opinions.

Firstly, I must say after reading your letter I was impressed with your writing skills. You spent quite some time organizing your thoughts and exhibit a real passion in the words you expressed. I respect that.

With that aside, my feeling is you are a very confused, depressed, angry musician/fan who is jealous of every band more successful or popular than yours. I love your description of all the bands (which included yours - thanks for not telling us what band your in-puss) that night "sucking." Wait, did you say your a musician? A true musician is open-minded and can explain what he likes or dislikes in a unbiased fashion. How can all these bands suck? Are you the judge of who sucks or who doesn't? If you don't like punk/ska than don't play it. I hope your band #1 (uhh...) reads your letter and kicks you out for A LACK OF PASSION, something a lot of these "bands that suck" have that you apparently don't.

Regarding your statement, "I think zines like yours are doing anything to (but) be original and show there is more than just Punk and Ska out there!" If you really sat down and read it you will discover we do cover other genres including a slew of indie/alternative bands like: Helmet, Stanford Prison Experiment, Thick Skin, Nerfherder, Supernovice, 3-ply, etc. etc. along with hardcore and power-pop bands too. Anyway, if you feel this way, why would you be asking questions about a Das Klowne article if your so bored? You wouldn't be a reader would ya? And by no means were we kissing Das Klowne's ass! Do we have to explain everything? I hope not, we want to leave a little up to your interpretation. And If you want a subscription all you gotta do is ask, geez.

And finally, "Punk v.s. Ska" worked as a remarkable marketing tool for many local bands who were contacted by mail, phone, or email. See, we listed all the bands contact info in the cd. The advertising is what funded the whole project and if you noticed (I know you probably listen to it everyday) the companies who did sponsor/advertise in the compilation were cool companies, the skate/ surf/snow types that tie in with the whole punk/ska scene.

Hey cheer up. Don't get so down on yourself. And do something nice today (for yourself). Good luck to you in your "other band."

Peace,
-S.P. (you get it?)

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On March 26, at the Showcase Theater in Corona I had the pleasure to meet Steve Whale (guitar) from The Business, and this is how it went. Hope you enjoy it.

Dan- Have The Business played any sold out soccer stadiums in London, England? Steve- Whale- I don't think they would let a band like us have that much power cuz the shows would be too dangerous.

Dan- What do you think of these California shows and the crowds?

Steve- Um, well as yet it seems all right tonight, the shows so far have been like something's happening on the scene, and its so reminiscent of 1982 when it all exploded in London. I think its got something to do with when Generation X and the Clash and all that sold out, and the kids

looked around for Dan- What's the story behind something more Southgate (Euro 96) of the new street oriented, and album "The Truth The Whole

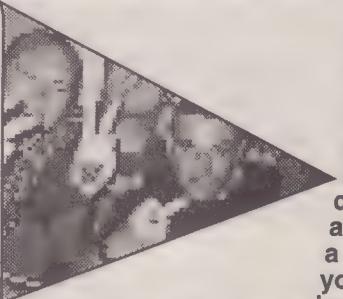
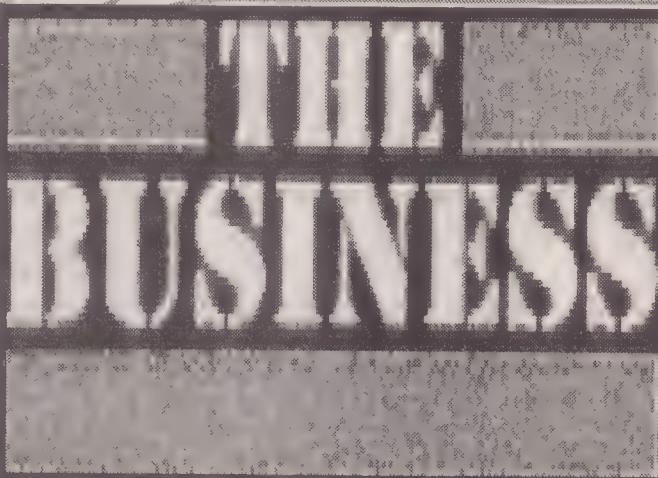
it was like the Up Truth And Nothing But The

Starts, Rejects, and Truth"?

The Business, that Steve- It's what you call sort of thing. And it cer we call football, basically looks very similar what happened, it was the to what's happen- European Final, now we got

ing now, especially all through, and the whole nation was really really happy. It was us and the Germans again in the final, and what happened was we got all through extra time, and now it was time for penalty kicks. Now the whole nation was on the edge of their seats. Next one gone in, matched it , matched it , matched it. And now it comes to Gareth

Southgate and he's just kicked it straight to the goal keeper, did not even try. And that was it, we were out of the European Cup. Now if we would have scored we would have won the cup.



Dan- How did you guys hook up with Lard from Rancid to produce the new record?

Steve- First American tour, Lars turned up with his gang, said hello, blah blah blah, made contact left it at that. Next time we missed him, he was on tour. He returned a call , our record company said could you turn up to the Brits Academy were playing there, and yeah fine

Dan- How long did it take to record?

Steve- A week, and then 4 or 5 days for mixing which is a bit too long really but we done it pretty quick.

Dan- Have you guys had any major labels knocking on your

we turned up, door?

had a good chat, Steve- Ha ha ha hah, well major we talked about labels can fuck off cuz were not music and things interested, end of sentence.

like that, and it was mentioned to Dan- What kind of tension is him, we was just there between south London coming to do an and north London? album. We said, as Steve- There's alot of tension a bit of a joke, do really, I don't feel save up you fancy produc- there. I like east London, I feel ing our album. Cuz really good there, I can get he got this real talent with the people there. But for vocal melody north London I just can't lines. He thought we stand it.

were joking and we thought he was joking. Dan- Has the band had any And a week later he troubles with nazi skinheads rang, saying were you coming to see you play? joking about doing that Steve- I think any band album. And I said no, would have trouble with nazi not really no. He said skinheads. Umm, I don't like fuck yeah I'll do it. He talking about it because its paid off his own back like bringing an omen on to come fly to you.

England, he done it all for nothing.

And he fucking, the mate is really really good in his heart with music. He loves all our music, he loves t-h-e street punk.

Dan- Are you guys racist?

Steve- You know were not, we don't have to answer those questions any more.

Dan- Do you know if any old OI bands are coming out to play?

Steve- One word, no, were the only ones left. I think were feeling a bit lonely.

Dan- Would you like to see the Clash make a comeback?
Steve- Who gives a fuck?

Dan- Do the English love their drugs as much as Americans do?

Steve- To be honest with you, I'm against drugs and that sort of thing. But I don't put people down for taking them.

Amy- Isn't the techno scene big out there?

Steve- I'm really glad you brought this up, ok I'll tell you what's happened. Dan- What do you do when your not doing The Clash Business? Your absolutely right, this epidemic your talking about is a very big thing. Steve- Oh, I just have the old ladies and sing very Now it all stems from football violence, we had a prime minister Margaret Thatcher who got in power. What she had done was a police exercise on football hooligans, to prove that she could control such a thing. And basically she knew were it would happen, sat 3 o'clock, she had TV and papers ready to report how great she was. So, basically what she'd done was sent everybody undercover to arrest all the top football hooligans. Then took them to court, the case was so weak it all fell through. Then the football hooligans turned around and sued the government for thousands upon thousands of pounds. OK, and then what they done literally is they had a board meeting in London with the top football hooligans, put their money into a pot and started a drug cartel, which hence is the rave scene in London. They were running pirate radio stations, pushing ecstasy, there were raves with 40,000 people, they were making untold fortunes, they are now the new Mafia of England. All because Margret Thatcher wanted to prove something. Now because of that race culture we did the single "Death to Dance" which was the last single on Town Records. Because we were sick to death of rave music being rammed down our throats. Then love them or hate them, Oasis came along and have destroyed the hole rave scene. Its all over for rave.

Dan-

Would you like to see the Clash

make a comeback?

Dan- My friend Bruce wanted to ask you, who the fuck is Cliff Richards, we have heard that he is really big in England?

Steve- I like that, that's good. Cliff Richards is like the arch type great citizen. And he's loved by nice songs, and he's a cheesy being on tour is we get extremely popular in England, money for food and beer. he preaches god, but he's a fruit. He says one thing then does another, the usual fucking situation. But the old ladies

when your not doing The Clash Business?

Steve- Oh, I just have the old ladies and sing very

ally, the good thing about sort of a fucking idiot. But he's

being on tour is we get extremely popular in England,

money for food and beer. he preaches god, but he's a

fruit. He says one thing then

situation. But the old ladies

mal at the moment. It was a bit of a scary situation.

Dan- Did mad cow disease effect you?

Steve- I'm perfectly normal at the moment. It was

a bit of a scary situation.

Dan- How old is he?

Steve- Oh, 50 or something.

Dan- Since you've seen He started imitating levies

the birth of punk, the really, but he stayed in the

death of punk, and the business for a long time, he's

resurrection of punk, do not known anywhere else but

Heavy Metal England.

Dan- Are there any Oi bands

in England that are up and coming?

Steve- I'm afraid the scene

in England has died about

ten years ago, it don't even

exist now, because of

show violence. That's why

anyone interested in Oi

bands in England, which

is very few, fly to America

to see the bands.

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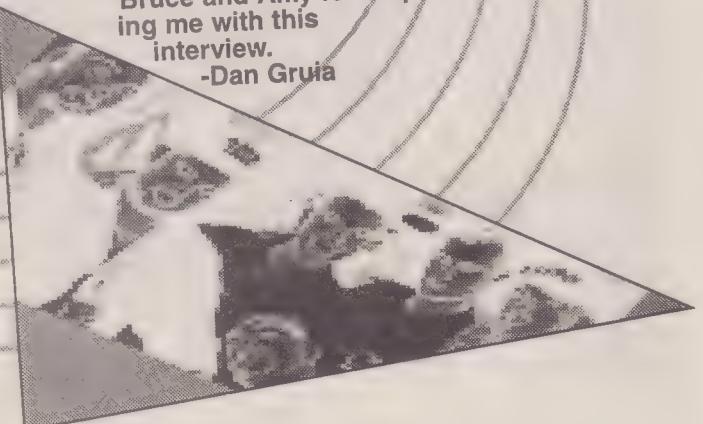
bands in England, which

is very few, fly to America

to see the bands.

The End. Thanks to Steve
Whale for hanging in
there, also thanks to
Bruce and Amy for help-
ing me with this
interview.

-Dan Gruia



Adz interview by Mel Torment

We caught up with Tony Reflex, singer for ADZ. For those who will concern themselves with punk rock history, the north OC sound began to officially take shape when a bunch of high school misfits and outcasts formed a band called The Adolescents. The lineup consisted of Casey Royer, Rikk and Frank Agnew, Steve Soto and Tony Adolescent (at that time). When "Amoeba" hit the airwaves as part of KROQ's Rodney on the Rock Volume One, the OC scene was beginning to scare the shit out of the county fathers as well as the rest of the nation. The Adolescents premier release also featured "Kids of the Black Hole", and the nightmare had begun.

Too many years and several bands later (the individual members of the ADZ have been in so many bands that it's hard to keep track...including Channel Three, Bug Lamp & 45 Grave, No Crisis, Flower Leperds, Sister

Goddamned and Bonecrusher) we have the ADZ. But ADZ is more than just a rehash of the heyday, and although you might hear a "classic" now and again at an ADZ show, the focus of the band remains on what's happening right now. They've been busy churning out new material of the sort which shows the bands experience and versatility. SKRATCH caught ADZ singer Tony Reflex in between dinner and getting ready for a western states tour swing.

skratch: Just to get the preliminary crap out of the way, what's the current line up for the ADZ?

tony R:ahh, kirk "hot rod" mosher playing guitar, bruce "dr. Hump" or "secret time bomb" duff on bass,....

skratch: He'll like that!

tony R: (laughing) yea he's dr. hump, whether he likes it or not, he's also "secret weapon time bomb" too. We have about 18 names for him. George of Madison is the other guitar player, matt "agent trash" is the drummer, and myself (tony reflex), singer.

skratch: your most recent release.. "PIPER AT THE GATES OF DOWNEY", when was that released in the US?

tony R: yea, that's out now. It was released a month ago in 1997

skratch: that was released first in Europe?

tony R: yea, it was released over there in July of 1995.

skratch: And over here its on Triple X...

tony R: actually it's on Amsterdamned. Its a Triple X subsidiary.

skratch: Who all worked with you on that? Didn't Thom Wilson work on it?

tony R:no. Thom didn't work on this one. Actually Bruce (Duff) produced with Geza X and Steve Kravak, who is over at Westbeach Recorders...

skratch: (two for four at this point) Were you pretty happy with the way things turned out?

tony R: Oh yea. Very happy. Steve's really good and Geza is wonderful too...I love Geza,...great to work with...great stuff from that guy...I enjoyed working with him, he's a pro and funny as shit too....and not to downplay Steve Kravak, who did all the basic track recording, and Geza did the overdubs and mix.

skratch: You guys are getting ready to do a mini tour, no? Where will you be going?

tony R: Yep. Ahhhh, I think we start in Denver, then to Salt Lake City, and, ah, ah, ah....Albuquerque I think. I don't know. Oh, Reno, Nevada.

skratch: Does it trip you out to be playing all these cities compared to back in the days when you were in the Adolescents and punk was being played in only a handful of cities, say LA, NYC, or maybe Austin or DC? I mean to be playing places like Salt Lake or Denver?

tony R: Hmm. Well, we never even made it that far. Um, the first time out we had a preliminary tour set up in the early eighties, and a lot of those cities were to be a part of it...but that fell through and it never happened.

THE
ADZ

So going to these places doesn't strike me as being that weird (two for five now Torment-Editor) so going to these places does not strike me as unusual because we were set to go there anyways...it just never happened like we thought it might. I mean it was a smaller market back then, but there was always a market for rock, whether it was punk or new wave or whatever.

And there were always bands touring, just not that many punk bands. Bands like Black Flag and Bad Brains and a couple of others were making the rounds back

THE ADZ

then but there wasn't as many bands going out as there are now.

skratch: What do you think of the 90's and the bands who are playing? Punk rock in the 90's and where things are headed...

tony R: Well it's pretty interesting out there. I mean all the techno stuff that's coming in- all hard and heavy. I just think things are coming full circle. Even though a lot of what you hear today may have more guts than what came out of the seventies, I think that a lot of it is the really not all that different than the kind of music punk rock was born amongst, a lot of fake, synthesized pop, and then you'll have an explosion of like, gritty rock and roll...and I think we're seeing it again, even with the rebirth of this techno thing we're going to see an even more stripped down version of that kind of rock. Cause a lot of what is available today, a lot of what is labeled as punk right now, and its just a nineties version of bubble gum. Its just pop. Its not band, and I don't really care about it one way or another. But that's all it is, just pop.

skratch: What bands do you like these days?

tony R: hmm. well I like Electric Frankenstein, another band I like is Sinister, and another band called Padded Cell....

skratch: Yea, I was just looking at a demo tape of theirs.

tony R:and I like my band...

skratch: Sister Goddamned ?

tony R: ...well yea, Sister Goddamned I always liked but their not in existence anymore. Sister Goddamned was probably the most misunderstood, under appreciated band ever.

skratch: ...uh, oh yea, ADZ. (moving quickly on..) What's the deal with the CD Rom? Are you guys still working on that?

tony R: As far as I know we are. Its still in the formulation stages so we're still putting it together...so, its going to be a multimedia, interactive thing...a game of some sort.

skratch: As far as what motivates you guys, what fuels you? Its obvious that you still are having fun onstage and

shit...

tony R:
Yea, there's still plenty to write about...there's plenty of things to look at as far as material or topics go.

THE ADZ

There's no shortage of things to write about...there's plenty to fire up anybody who looks long enough.

skratch: So are you guys ready to head back to the studio anytime soon?

tony R: Well we're in tight now working on Transmissions from Planet Speedball, is what its called and we're working on that right now.

skratch: Judging from the show turn out you guys still have a great following. Is it the old fans or the new? Do people still expect to see the Adolescents on stage?

tony R: Not really...at least not anyone who follows the ADZ...I mean we still get people who expect to hear all the greatest hits, but that just won't happen just because what ADZ does is so much broader than that...we have so much more variety. I mean the old school people still turn out, but we have just as many younger fans too. I mean, we might have 32 or so new songs...so we're definitely not stuck in the past trying to recycle the stuff from the old days. Um...you never know. Every now and again someone will come to a show and expect to hear all the old shit and then not hear it and walk out all disappointed...but hey...ADZ is really much more diverse than that. Sometimes, we'll sneak a classic in, you just never know.

skratch: well, I guess you won't hear me screaming out "play amoeba!" at a show. thanks and good luck on the road.

THE END



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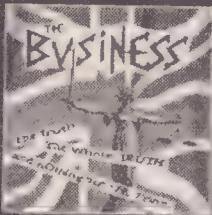
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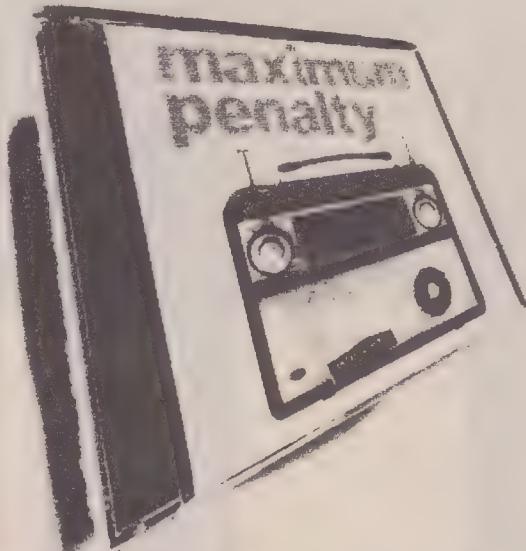
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When I arrived to the 101 Hollywood Freeway, I thought, "well good, we are almost there". I later realized that it was that which caused my counterpart and I to take an hour long side trip into the nice city of Silverlake. Finally Alan and I reached our destination at 9:00 P.M., an hour late (or so we thought). I got up to the front of the will call line I find out the show started at 7:00 P.M. not at 8:00. Drat! So I missed the Voodoo Glow Skulls, The Pharcyde, Powerman 5000 and a great portion of the Sublime Mini-Movie. (Which was pretty good from what I saw). Face to face came onto the stage and ripped into their set containing a great display of melodic punk rock. They played a lot of new songs and also played a few songs from their previous release *Big Choice* such as "A-OK". My personal favorites were songs that came from their Fat Wreck Chords release *Don't Turn Away* including an audience participation part in "Nothing". They ended their short set with "Pastel" (my very favorite song from the group) which can be found on *Don't Turn Away*.

After the show I got to have a few words with Trevor of Face to Face and it went like this:

A: Andrew: Who is everyone and what do you play?

T: Trevor guitar and vocals, Chad plays guitar, Scott plays bass and Rob Kurth plays drums.

A: How did the band come to be?

T: That's a long question. In 1991, Me, Matt (Riddle) and Rob formed a three piece band, Face to Face. We went out and played a bunch of shows locally in the Riverside area. Then we met up with Dr. Strange and they recorded an album for us and put that out. We did a bunch of local touring, and we met up with Fat Mike from NOFX. He bought the album from Dr. Strange and re-released it on Fat (Wreck Chords). NOFX took us out on a couple of U.S. tours and a couple of Canadian tours and the band started getting more popular. We did a deal with Victory records and released an album on Victory. Did a bunch of national tours and European tours, Japan, Canada. Victory went out of business and our contract got signed over to A&M Records and that's where our latest record, *Self Titled*, is out, about four or five months old. In the meantime, we picked up Chad as an extra guitarist and Matt Riddle left the band and he was replaced by Scott Schiffwood who is our new bass player. He's been in for about a year and a half.

(And with that answer he took out a bunch of my questions)

A: You guys just finished up the Snocore Tour, right?

T: This was the last show.

A: How was that?

T: It was a lot of fun. Rob and Chad really enjoyed because they snowboard and they got to go out a few days. I played a lot of Nintendo and Playstation and read a lot books. I don't like the cold or the snow. I stayed inside and drank a lot of coffee a lot.

A: How long was the tour?

T: About a month.

A: Do you guys feel your sound has changed since *Don't Turn Away*?

T: I think it's changed and got back to it. I think *Big Choice* was a bit of a departure for the band. It was a little bit more raw and the songs were... I don't know how to explain it. If you have our records you will see that *Big Choice* is a less melodic record than *Don't Turn Away*. An with the new record I tried to go back to the *Don't Turn Away* sound while still trying to push the limits of trying to play slower songs, faster songs, experiment with more harmonies and intricate guitar parts.

A: Looking back on *Don't Turn Away* (editor interjects- *If I have to utilize the italics button one more time, someone is going to get hurt*) how would you guys change it?

T: I think we've learned a lot more about recording since then and we could probably make it sound better. I think the playing and everything was cool. I like the song writing on it. I would change more about *Big Choice* than *Don't Turn Away* (*someone is going to get hurt*).

A: When you guys were starting who were your main influences?

T: Bad Religion, The Descendents, Fugazi, The Addicts, Minor Threat, Black Flag

A: Are you currently working on any projects like recording or videos?

T: We're not working on videos but we end up on a lot of snowboarding, surfing, skating videos without our knowledge, people just use our music, which is cool. So make sure to check the back to see if we're on it. I don't know if we're gonna get into another single for this record. We put "Won't lie down" out there and it did pretty cool. We're selling enough records and we're happy with the way things are going now. We just gonna keep touring and see how things grow organically instead of shoving it down people's throats. We're



gonna stay on tour and continue to do what we can remain in control of.

A: Are you guys gonna (gonna?) take a break?

T: No, we're taking two weeks off and we're doing a tour throughout Canada. We're taking three days off, then to Japan. Then two weeks off, then another U.S. tour with Aquabats, MxPx, and a couple of dates with No Doubt.

A: What are your feelings about glam rock?

T: Glam rock, I never really like glam rock when it was popular but I like it more now because it's funnier. I didn't like it when people were taking it all serious. The rock I used to be into was

Iron Maiden and Queensryche, like pirate,

swashbuckling rock. Never been much for the glam thing. That was a phase for about six months when I was thirteen. The only bands that I like that were considered to be glam -for a short period of time...

I liked

Ratt when they came out. Everybody loves

Motley Crue don't they?

A: I think I'm the biggest Motley Crue fan here.

T: That's really about it. I didn't like much glam.

A: What are your favorite areas to play?

T: Southern California. Most major cities are cool.

A: What are your future plans for Face to Face?

T: Like I said, a lot of touring this year may be a little bit of a break and maybe recording a another record around January of 1998.

A: Any last comments?

T: No, I never have last comments.

A: Thanks a lot

T: No problem.

After a fun filled evening of getting lost, meeting the local Los Angeles people, and missing most of the show, Alan and I got the hell out of there.

-Professor Andrew and Alan Oakes

face to face

MAXIMUM PENALTY

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK SISTO OF MAXIMUM PENALTY 3/07/97
S: WHAT HAS MAXIMUM PENALTY BEEN UP TO LATELY?

M: WE'VE BEEN PLAYING AND PRACTICING A LOT.

S: ANY TOURS PLANNED?

M: WE'RE GOING TO EUROPE WITH SHEER TERROR.

S: ARE YOU GUYS PLANNING ON COMING HERE?

M: WE'RE TRYING TO PLAY THE STATES WITH POWERHOUSE.

S: HOW COME YOU GUYS DON'T HOP ON A TOUR WITH SICK OF IT ALL OR SOMETHING WHEN THEY COME HERE? (TO SUM UP THE ANSWER I RECEIVED BACK WAS SORT OF LIKE) BANDS OVER THERE ARE TOO BUSY GIVING DIBS TO THE NEW GUYS AND NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE OLD GUYS. AND IT'S A CLIQUISH THING ALSO.

S: HOW ARE YOUR SHOWS GOING OVER THERE?

M: IT'S PRETTY WEIRD BECAUSE AT SAY ONE SHOW THERE ARE A LOT OF KIDS AND THE NEXT ONE IS EMPTY. WE PLAYED CBGB'S A FEW WEEKS AGO AND WE PLAYED WITH LIKE FOUR DEATH METAL BANDS. I DON'T THINK THEY KNOW WHERE TO PUT US.

S: DO YOU COLLECT ANYTHING OR HAVE ANY HOBBIES?

M: I HAVE A COLLECTION OF OLD KARATE MOVIES.

S: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WAS YOUR BEST SHOW?

M: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PHILLY WITH DOWNSET. AND H2O.

S: DO ANY OF YOU GUYS GET INTO FIGHTS A LOT?

M: NO. WE'RE BASICALLY ANTI-VIOLENT. YOU KNOW I'M 30 AND TOO OLD FOR THAT STUFF. IF A FIGHTS BREAK OUT WE'LL STOP PLAYING.

S: ANYTHING REALLY COOL HAPPEN TO YOU GUYS LATELY?

M: ONE OF OUR SONGS IS GOING TO BE USED ON A SOUNDTRACK FOR SOME JUNKIE UNDERGROUND MOVIE.

S: WOULD YOU SAY THAT'S

SELLING OUT?

M: NO, BECAUSE AGAIN OUR SHOWS ARE EMPTY AND THEN THE OTHER ONE FULL?

S: WHAT OTHER BANDS ARE ON THE SOUNDTRACK?

M: WE ARE THE ONLY HARDCORE BAND THE REST ARE LIKE SKA OR SOMETHING.

S: WHAT WAS THE REASONING BEHIND THE BREAK UP IN 1989?

M: OUR SINGER WAS PLAYING GUITAR AND FLOATING AROUND TO OTHER BANDS. WE WERE ALL SORT OF HAVING OUR OWN PROBLEMS. SO I LEFT, AND THEN THEY ASKED ME TO JOIN AGAIN IN 1989 AND THAT WAS THAT.

S: WHAT BAND DID YOUR NEW DRUMMER COME FROM?

M: SEALED WITH A FIST.

S: HOW'D HE GET IN THE BAND?

M: HE PLAYED FOR LIKE A HALF HOUR WITH US. AND HE WAS IN THE BAND.

S: SO WHAT'S IN STORE FOR MAXIMUM PENALTY?

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MARK WAS FUN TO TALK TO, AND HIS ROOMMATE. (WHICH THEY LIVE IN A NICE HOUSE) BILL KEPT TELLING HIM HIS DINNER WAS GETTING COLD LIKE 4 TIMES WHILE I WAS TALKING TO HIM. AND HE JUST KEPT ON TALKING TO ME. PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY- COOL GUY, EH?

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The following "interview" consists of highlights from a 90 minute long conversation with Bill Spunk, the lead singer of Chicago's punk/circus/ska band-The Blue Meanies. It may seem kind of warped as the interview was not pre-meditated. Due to the length of the constraints, I had to cut about 75% of the material, so please bear with me.

Blue Meanies 3-7-97 @ The showcase

(Blue Meanies)BMS: This is weird, can you hear this little break in the set here? Every night they stop the set...the Suicide Machines.. and there's always this little banter about "if your gonna change the scene you gotta start with yourself, then you can change everything else around you." But the other night some

blue meanies

crusty punk rock guy in Colorado stands up during the show and pisses on the bass player of the Suicide Machines. So, the bassist swings at him and then throws down his bass and starts chasing him all over the venue.

(SKRATCH) Bill: how do you let someone piss on you? What was this guy Quick Draw McGraw or something!

BMS: He wasn't watching and the stage was about 2 feet tall, so the guy just stood on the side of the stage took out his cock and started peeing on him...it was weird, this all happened during the big Radio song "No Face" and I think it was because of that (because he didn't like the radio shit).

Bill: So any other tours lately?

BMS: Yeah, we toured with Goldfinger and that was real weird, since this tour's been cops and fighting and stuff. But, Goldfinger was totally different. There was 1000's of people and 14 year old screaming girls.

Bill: What did they do for you guys-stand there with their jaws on the floor?

BMS: Actually, we got a really good response from everybody. We almost didn't take the tour. We all sat down and talked about how it might be a waste of our time, but it was great. Goldfinger was cool. They let us ride in their tour bus. And the guitarist would play "Ace of Spades" with us. He's really into metal.....We've got a new record coming out.

Bill: Yeah, in April right?

BMS: Actually, it's going to come out in May. It's a cool record and much louder, much faster than Kiss Your Ass good-bye.

Bill: Is it more ska or more of that whacked out stuff?

BMS: It's completely whacked compared to the last album. Their are a couple of songs that are straight-ahead though. There's a lot of improvising going on and some other stuff-most people won't understand.

Bill: Like the noise bridges on songs like "Pave the world?"

BMS: Yeah. One of the songs is called "Deep in the Hops" and the whole thing is just noise. It does have some sort of cohesiveness. But, for the most part, it's just bizarre.

Bill: Is the stuff from the 10" and the "Your in Trouble's 7"?

BMS: "Send help" and "the Peacemaker" from YOUR IN TROUBLE will be on it and "Smother Me" from the 10".

Bill: So, your going to leave off the new version of "Pave the World"?

BMS: Yeah, this new version is not going to be on this. Although, I'd like to record it with an orchestra someday- a big huge band. we'll get the Chicago Symphony. So, I guess we're not recording it again.

Bill: Any cool Highway 15 stories?

BMS: In Vegas I won \$80 bucks on the roulette table, I was a good gambler. I was just kickin' back watching the wheel go by and I got what they call a hunch. I walked up, threw my money down, and bam, I picked it up and walked away. I took off. We also saw New York, New York- Manhattan right in Vegas.

Bill: Where'd you play?

BMS: We didn't.... I mean Caesar's Palace. It was like \$75.00 a ticket. The Unknown Comic opened up. And you know he wears make-up under his paper bag. We played all Dean Martin songs.

Bill: You lie like no other my friend.

BMS: (Laughs) We also saw the world's tallest thermometer at Bun Boy in Baker.

Bill: What happened with the A&M record deal?

BMS: We didn't exactly see eye to eye. It was cool though. They put us up at a Days Inn at Sunset Blvd-right around the corner from The Seventh Veil (L.A.'s strip club--you know the one Motley Crue use to frequent). Yeah, a shout out to MOTLEY CRUE. Anyways, we did 3 songs in 5 days with 2 great producers--Mike Douglas and Alex Reca. But, it was obvious from the start, it wasn't going



Photos by Bill Meadows

to work out. I mean it's us and A&M. We did use one of the A&M songs on the Hopeless record comp "Skankin in the Pit." It's really cool. It just came out.

Bill: How can people get a hold of the band for info?

BMS: Well, we have a homepage- but I don't know the address-too many back slashes, but you can email us at meanies@aol.com or at pavelump@aol.com. From there, you can get our homepage address. The mailing address is P.O. Box 317: Charleston, Ill. 61920.

Bill: Any future plans?

BMS: We're suppose to go to Japan and Europe on tour by the end of the year, hopefully. The new record comes out in May and after that--lots of touring.

-Bill Meadows

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Interview w/Jeffries Fan Club Everybody needs a little JFC

by Celeste Tabora

Mike-singer/guitarist, Sonnie-guitar, Chris R-trumpet, Chris Trombone, Justin-drums, and Derrick-bass; make up the newest ska band Southern California has engulfed in its loving arms. It's difficult to pinpoint when they became a band, since there were a series of changes in members and break ups. But they started playing shows in the late summer of 1996 and are soon to release their 1st CD on Vegas records.

Now the question everyone wants to ask, what is the song "Twelve" about?

Mike: Pickle Latham. When he was in high school he had a girlfriend in junior high, and she wasn't really twelve, but we had to exaggerate to make the song better. That song is about Pickle, not me. Make a note of that everybody, my girlfriend is 18. Actually, he did meet her at Disneyland. She came to my house for a party and she left at 9:30. I wrote the song before that happened. It was a total prophecy thing.

Chris C: It was an omen.

Mike: Exactly.

Where is Jeffrey's Fan Club planning on going?

Mike: We wanna have fun, we wanna go as far as we can having fun.

What was the hardest thing to deal with?

Mike: As far as the band, keeping members. Everybody quit on us whenever we got established, like our first horn players. We've gone through so many members, that it took forever to play shows.

Who were the original members?

Justin: We should all be the original members. Everybody played the first shows besides Chris (C.) and Derrick.

Where was this first show?

Justin: My birthday party, our first gig at my house.

How was that?

Mike: It was very disappointing to us, because no one stuck around to tell us how it was. Everybody just left, it was like, "Okay, did anyone like us?" We felt like quitting. We weren't sure...

Which song has the most meaning to you, if there is one?

Mike: The goodbye theme probably. It's about our old bass player.

What was your best moment?

Justin: The Barn (w/ Save Ferris). It felt good, being in front of so many people.

Wasn't it sold out?

Justin: Yeah, it was sold out. That was a great feeling. Hearing us on KROQ was a great feeling too.

When were you guys played on KROQ?

Mike: Right after *Punk vs. Ska Round 1* - a compilation on Skratch/Vegas Records) came out, and we also got played on Rodney's *Pick the Click*. That was pretty cool. We didn't get to hear it but that was pretty cool. Sonnie heard it, and he recorded it.

Do you guys have lots of conflicts between your jobs and playing shows?

(Laughter)

Chris C: CHRIS RUSH!!

Chris R: I work at Disneyland, it's incredible to get days off. It's really hard.

I see this whole Disneyland theme with this band...

Chris C: The reason I picked the job I have is because it works out perfectly. I work on weekdays during the day.

Justin: I work one day a week.

Do you guys feel any resentment from the other bands, since you are so big as a young band?

Mike: Definitely, I think it sucks.

Justin: We didn't do anything personally to them...

Chris R: We hear things, especially sometimes when we headline over other bands. Out of respect for those other bands, we say "No, no, no-we don't want it, it isn't fair" and we totally understand you know. I think we have to pay our dues.

Mike: A lot of people are helping us, doing things for us, and we're not asking for it, they're just doing it. And we're not gonna say "No, we don't want your help."

Chris R: Definitely, this band would not be anywhere we are without Jon Halperin.

Mike: He's totally volunteering everything for us.

Chris C: He's practically out of house and home. We're insanely thankful that he's doing it.

What do you think of Glam rock, where it is, where it's going, is it making a comeback?

Mike: It's gone.

Chris C: I liked those bands then, but now, I don't see it.

Justin: I like Glam rock.

Are you guys happy with the band?

Chris and Mike: Definitely.

Was there a point when you weren't happy?

Mike: Oh yeah.

Chris: We broke up many times. Mike called me one day, and said, I just don't think we should do this. And I was like 'Uh, Ok.'

Mike: Three times actually.

What was the turning point?

Mike: The turning point was the Punk Vs. Ska Cd. After those couple shows you got us, we pretty much fell apart. Our trombone and sax player left.

Chris R: We got Chris (C.) I asked him to come and fill in (he's permanent now) then Jason, drifting in and out.

Mike: We are more established now.

Chris: Definitely when Chris (C.) And Derek came in, that really turned it around. And the Punk Vs. Ska Cd and Jon Halperin. Because before that we really didn't know what we were doing, or if we were going to keep doing it.

(To Mike) You were always "iffy."

Mike: Yeah, well because it has to be perfect, if its not perfect I don't want to do it, that's just the way I am. That's the way we all are...



Rumors, psychos, & G-strings with Low Pressure

By-KC

Low Pressure features Jackie O on vocals, Rich on trumpet, the guy with the really cool sideburns Dave on trumpet, Jeremy on trombone, Jason on keyboards, the hardcore gangster Alex D on bass, Jeff on drums, and that tall English guy Alex M on guitar.

How long has the band been together and how did it start up?
Jackie: We've been together since last May, so about a year almost. We started through an ad in Mean Street and we had another singer at the time but now we don't because she's psycho.
Rest of the band: don't be mean

Jackie: don't be mean?

Alex M: Just relax.

Who are the newest members?

Jackie: The newest member was added a couple of days ago-Alex D.

Alex D: Been in for a week and half.

Alex M: He played his first show with the band ever live on the radio today and didn't screw up or anything.

What about Rich?

Rich: Yeah I'm pretty new. I've been in the band for a month or two.

How does Low Pressure compare with being in Grover's Headache?

Rich: I like it a lot better.

Rest of the band: Yeah you better say that!

Rich: It's different. I like it because it seems more professional and more focused on playing. I get along with everybody and I felt really comfortable very fast, I felt like one of the band.

Describe your sound.

Jackie: We have a Specials meet Oingo Boingo sound with a touch of Madness.

Who writes the lyrics?

Alex: Well I write most of the lyrics, Jackie sometimes.

What do you usually write about?

Alex: Our lyrics are not that important, it's more about the music. The primary goal is to create danceable, fun, and upbeat music. Not that we don't care. Some songs are quite personal like "Nowhere". But ska is about fun and having a good time so it's hard to write deep lyrics to ska music.

As a band you have a great influence on the kids, so do you advocate smoking crack?

Alex: Don't smoke crack, but give it to me and I'll see to it that it's disposed of properly.

Jeff: But weed is another story...

subliminal-crack subliminal-smoke it subliminal-crack subliminal-smoke it yeah.

When is the CD coming out?

Jackie: The CD should be coming out in 2 weeks under Nigma records.

Any plans for a tour?

Jackie: We plan to schedule a tour during the summer.

Favorite Low Pressure show?

LP: Our first show with Let's Go Bowling.

How did you come up with your name?

Jackie: We had a lot of potential names. Our name doesn't really mean anything.

Dave: We just chose names out of a hat.

Influences?

Everyone: Oingo Boingo

Alex: The Selecter, the Specials

Dave: Squirrel Nut Zippers

Jason: Prodigy

Alex: But there are so many.

Editor: Crack

Since Low Pressure is a female-fronted band, I'm sure you get numerous comparisons to No Doubt and the band of the moment-Save Ferris. How do you feel about that?

Dave: Yeah we're the Riverside Save Ferris. *<sarcastic>* People like to make comments like that about us.

Jackie: We hate it. You really can't compare Low Pressure, No Doubt, and Save Ferris because it's three totally different styles

Rich: It's like comparing apples to oranges.

How do you feel about ska going corporate and ska bands getting tons of airplay on KROQ and MTV?

Dave: We want money.

Rest of the band: No No!!

Dave: Well then, I want money.

Alex: We think it's great that ska is reaching more people as long as they enjoy it and understand it and don't like it just because it's trendy.

So your future goal is to sign to a major?

Alex: Well let's put it this way. We love playing live shows and playing for the kids. The better shows we've played at have always had lots of people, so if signing to a major would get us more exposure and we could play in front of even bigger crowds, than that would be good.

Do you think the ska scene is played out?

Jeremy: If the ska scene was played out, then Save Ferris wouldn't be getting a record deal with Epic.

Any rumors about the band that you would like to dispel?

Rich: Jackie is not a whore.

Alex: Like what rumors?

Skratch: That you wear women's panties.

Alex: Oh, well that one is already out there. That's not a rumor.

Jackie: Yeah he wears g-strings all the time.

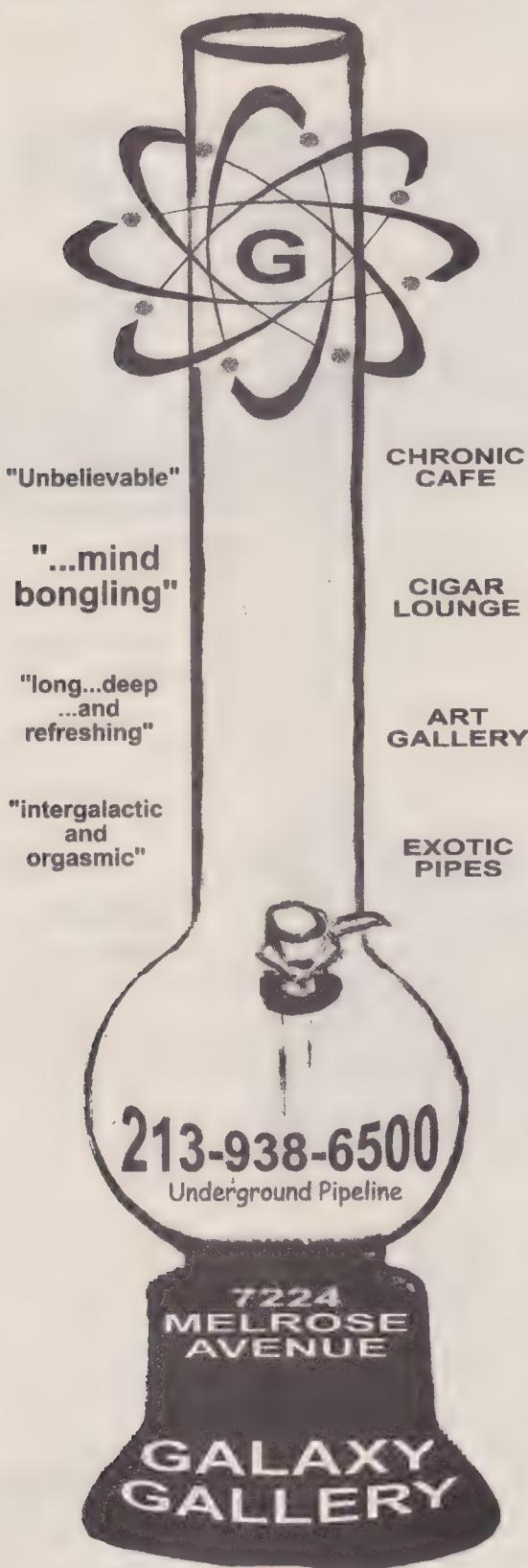
What do you think about glam rock/heavy metal?

Dave: Yes!

Rest of the band: We're not really into that.

In keeping with the whole theme of this Skratch issue, I had to ask that last glam rock question though it's probably not the answer the editor wanted. He probably wanted them to go off about how much they love Poison or Guns and Roses and how they want to grow their hair out really long and wear tight leather pants. But in actuality, how many of you can site glam rock as a true personal fave? Okay, maybe there is a substantial number of you, but maybe some of you like it because it's suddenly the cool thing to do. But to all of the young kids, don't be frightened by this craze. It's just a thing of the past. Just keep skankin' along to Low Pressure. Smile, have fun, and no, you can't skank to glam rock! In reality, we don't advocate smoking crack. It's just a joke.

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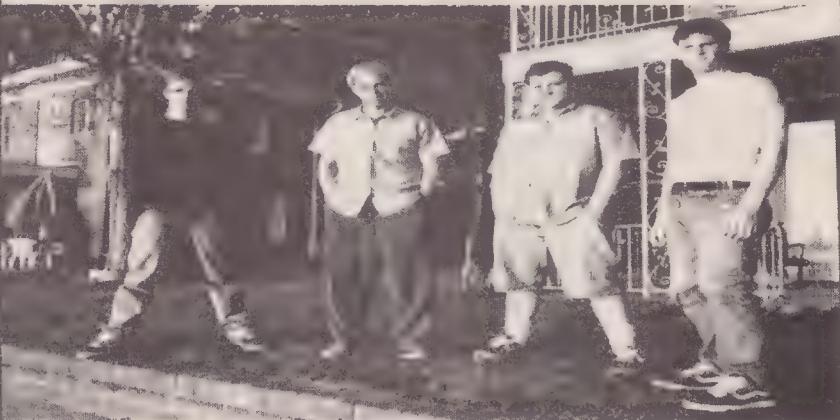
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Overcome, Eyelid, Zao, InnerMeans, Will haven, Noon Hour Endeavor The Barn 3/22/97

All bands played their hearts out.

Innermeans played for the glory of God. They weren't trying to convert anyone, they were just proud to be Christian.

Then Eyelid played, I expected more, but the windmills were a blowing hard all over the place at high speeds.

Overcome went on, and gave dibs to the good things Zao had to say. Some idiot in the crowd yelled shut up, and some smart allec comments about OK I'm converted. Total disrespect, so the singer gave about a 15-20 minute lecture on respect and how the reason they sing is to bring messages to others. It was pretty cool, and everyone clapped after. And after that they played so hard, in-between set ups a group of five guys busted out breakdancing on the floor. Backflips, frontflips, spins, they were going all out. Everyone formed a circle around them and took turns going off.

Overall, it was a very positive show. Even if you weren't Christian. The crowd knew what was going on.

-Bob

NAKED AGGRESSION, CONTRAST, KANKER SORES, DEAD SOCIETY, DELEMA AT: SHOWCASE 3/4/97

Jugheads Revenge was supposed to play this show but they didn't. Opening bands went as followed: Dalega went on first, their best was their bad Religion "Were Only Gonna Die" cover. Then Dead Society went up. Dang, they were so good "Oil", the best I heard in a long time, but no one was there to appreciate such talent. The crowd consisted of mainly 14 year old (maybe fifteen) year olds trying to be "punks of the year". (It's pretty sad that I talk so much shit but it makes me realize why there are 21 and over shows.)

The crowd then gathered around for Kanker Sores. Man, I don't know what happened but they are so good now. Their set that used to have mainly a ska/punk edge, now is more straight hard-core. The punks were disappointed, they couldn't figure out how to dance to it.

Then Contrast played. Contrast indeed - the singer wears pants with one black leg and one white leg and a shirt to match.

Then Naked Aggression played. She didn't play the french horn this time but they did play two new songs of their upcoming album and they were good. They played all the greats including "Smash the State", "Mind Control", and "Were the Kids" and a million others.

-Bob

MR. NICE GUY, THE OUTSIDE, BLOUNT

Cobalt Cafe 3-21

Making the trip to the Valley via the 405 disaster, I missed most of the first band- Mr. Nice Guy. The songs I was able to hear reminded me of early Faith No More and Kudetah, minus the politics. While displaying a lot of energy and getting the crowd moving- they seemed better fit for a bill with bands like 311, The Urge, Phunk Junkeez, Pocket Lent, etc....

Next up was Kingpin. Although the singer had a leg injury, his performance from a chair did not decrease their intensity. Equal parts of HC/EMO/SKA/POP they provided a full rush to the ears. A definite must see if they are ever playing a club near you!

The Outside took the stage next. With a harder edge style ala Black Flag, lead singer, Darwin practically exploded with energy onstage. Making the trip to Saugus, they certainly lost no energy from the drive. This is a band that should take the scene by storm.

Finally, Blount, from Florida, put down their cafe mochas and got ready to tear it up Cobalt style. With a mixed sound reminiscent of Face to Face, Millencolin and the humor of NOFX. They certainly prove to be no slouch, even with the Cobalt half empty and the time waning. They put on an energetic set with half-hearted covers "Owner of A lonely Heart," and "We're not gonna take it." Blount is a band everyone should check out.

-Frank Cardoza

SICK OF IT ALL 3-20-97

After arriving late, for a fun-filled night of hardcore music, I just caught the last two songs of Ensign, they sounded hard. Next up was AFI. The crowd became frenzied after the first song. They started off the set strong, fast, and energetic. Throughout the set, it remained that way. The broken bass strings that required a replacement bass, had no effect on their performance; they remained tight.

Now for the main event, Sick of it All. following the theme of the Empire of Star Wars, as an intro, they took the stage. They come out with an explosion of sheer, raw power. Sick of it All was tight as ever and hard as fuck. This band is hardcore in the truest sense. From my viewpoint next to the stage, I could see security having to work to keep people off the stage. My only complaint is, I had to stand in a bunch of goofy-ass, teenage girl, groupie types. Sick of it All belted out shit from "Blood, Sweat, and No Tears" to "Build To Last." They also had a couples dedication of the song "Closer," asking all girls to grab a partner and get in the pit. The one-hour long set ended in a Minor Threat cover of "Betray." Words cannot describe how great this band is.

-Bruce Lucero

HEPCAT

MEALTICKET

SFD

MAD CADDIES

AT THE GLASSHOUSE IN POMONA
ON MARCH 28, 1997

A fairly new band, previously known as Ivy League, but now called the Mad Caddies opened the show. The horns are extremely tight, the rhythm section rocked, although the vocals were not as impressive. The vocalist is entertaining running and jumping around the stage. Overall the band is pretty good, and their set was good, they're still small so check them out.



Photo by Celeste Tabora

known as Six Feet Deep. SFD has great stage presence, the horns, rhythm section, and vocals blend well to create a original style of ska. Some songs that showed their brilliance well were, "No Way Out", and "Papa Shango". SFD takes the crowd into a new dimension of ska.

The Valley's premier female fronted ska band, Mealticket was up next. Mealticket is strong as ever with their new guitarist, (formerly of Lone Raspberry), who had many screaming twelve year old fans. I felt as if I was trapped at a New Kids On The Block concert with all the screaming going on. The melodic vocals, two tight horn players, and rock-en rhythm section were amazing creating the unique sound of Mealticket. Many hip tunes were played, such as "Heavy Heart," "No Message Here", and the melody filled, "Super Positive". Mealticket is a extremely talented band, it is a wonder to me how they are not signed yet.



Hepcat was the headliner of the night bringing their smooth traditional ska to the ears of the Inland Empire. Hepcat had the entire audience dancing up a storm with their two tone, traditional influenced brand

of ska. One of the highlights of Hepcat's set was, "Country Time." Another upbeat happy ska tune, "Bobby and Joe" was performed. Hepcat slowed the mood down with, "Black Sky". This is a band overflowing with talent, which was displayed well into their smooth styled songs. If you have not seen this band, your missing out.

- Joe Licavoli

Ska Parade Party

With: Ocean Eleven Action League Thee Spivies

When you think of the Ska Parade, don't you automatically think ska? Well, for this party at the Westminster Manor, ska was not the only thing heard. The two openers of the night, The Spivies' and Action League showed loud, and clear that kids can like ska, and other types of music styles. Although the headliners of the night, Ocean Eleven, made the new Ska Parade fit well with their style of ska. Here's how the show went:



Brown slacks, white shirts and red ties, it's Thee Spivies! These young lads opened the party with their rock and roll, surf rock influenced tunes. iDon't know if it's a pun

and catchy song was first to be heard out of Thee Spivies old fashioned mics. Some other hip tunes were, "One and Only", and, "Planet Control". A highlight of their set was when the drummer sang along with one of their newest songs, "The Safety", a crowd favorite was played, leading to "Long Tall Sally", a cover by Little Richard, which closed their set.



A band that does not play nearly enough, in my opinion was up next, it's Action League. There is only one way to describe this band, they rock! The guitarist was insane, the bassist rocked, the drummer was right on target,

the keyboardist gives them a unique edge, and the vocalist/guitarist harmonized well to form the original sound of Action League. "Son of a Gun", an old song off their debut album Solid 001 was played. "Witness", which the guitarist, Fred was on vocals was a strong number. The guitarist is extremely amusing playing his guitar behind his head, (glam rock rules!) A personal favorite, "One Rover One" was performed and a different song, "Brake Down", showcased Rodi, the keyboardist on vocals. Action League took it home with, "I Don't Care". Hopefully they will be playing more shows soon.



Photo by Michelle Lewis

Ocean Eleven celebrated their three year reunion at the Manor, and they are definitely back in to the swing of things. Let me tell you, they have not lost their excellent

ska, reggae, and rocksteady edge. It's great to see a traditional band with not just one, but two excellent female vocalist's. Off the Ska Parade C.D., "The Best Of Love" was performed with Malik of Mobtown, and the trumpet player, Derrik sang (the only song he sang at this show). That was a very special sight to see. "Latin Ska", was a solid traditional ska tune, which got the audience dancing. Another choice song was "Misunderstanding", which blended the rhythm section, tight horn section, and melodic vocals to form the excellent ska Ocean Eleven possess. A unique piece of Ocean Eleven's band set up was an organist with bongo drums. An old reggae tune, "Solid as a Rock" was played displaying their influence of reggae brilliantly. Now that they are back, come out to the shows and support Ocean Eleven.

-Joe Licavoli

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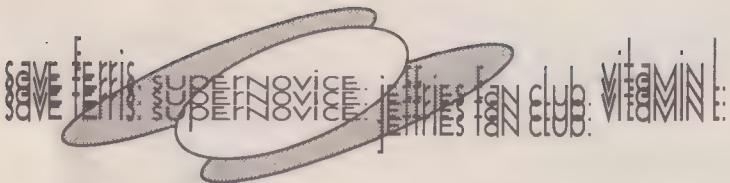
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It was beautiful night for a show. As I pulled into UCR, I was astonished by the amount of people clustering outside to get into the show. I guess all the publicity for Save Ferris paid off. I was looking forward to this show.

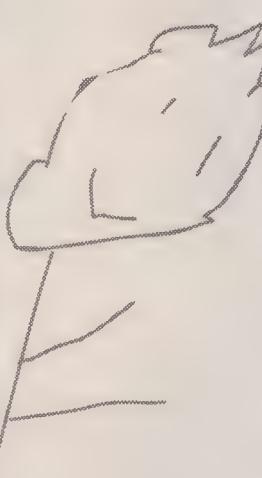
I eventually made my way into the venue to find that there were a lot more people inside as well. Orange County based ska band Jeffrie's Fan Club opened the show. They played for about a half-hour and they were well liked by the warm friendly crowd. There were a couple songs that stuck in my head, although I don't remember any titles. A friend of theirs (a girl) came up on stage and joined the boys (in their matching J.F.C. shirts) for an 80's Katrina and The Waves cover tune called "Walking on Sunshine." Their horns were very clean and tight. Overall, I was pleased with J.F.C. except their set didn't offer much variety except for the rockabilly tune.

Supernovice was a lot different than what I was expecting. I was waiting for a generic punk band but got something completely far from it. Supernovice is a four piece consisting of a bass player, drummer, guitarist/lead vocalist, and a female back up singer who also plays tambourine. The songs were a lot more alternative than most bands in the Orange County music scene. The lead vocalist did a nice job of singing rather than yelling or talking. The musicianship was impressive.

They're wild, they're wacky, they're the L, Vitamin L that is. This has by far been the best I have ever seen the now six piecer. They recently added a DJ to the group. The Vitamins threw out groovy little bits of ear candy which the crowd seemed to enjoy. They played a few of my old favorites like "Urine Luck" and a new tune which was dope called "Integrity What a Concept". However, they didn't play "Mexican Radio" which disappointed me. The set did inspire me to pick up a copy of their new disc {Make Room You Label Whores.}

Next up was the band the plethora of people were there to see, Orange County's own, Save Ferris. They opened their well rehearsed set with "For You" from their debut CD. Other songs thrown into the set were "The World is New", "Superspy", and a whole slew of new material that is as catchy as their earlier stuff. The band was lively as always and the crowd was very receptive. Judging by the size of the crowd and their (the crowd's) enthusiasm, Save Ferris is on their way to success. I wish that I had been able to stay for the whole show but I had to leave due to accompanying parties curfews.

-J. Daniels



You can't skank

Less Than Jake, Mr. T Experience, and My Superhero

@ The Glass House

3/22/97

For the first time in a long time I was going to make it to a show on time. I was so happy, until I realized I didn't know where the fuck I was going. After a short half hour I finally made it to the Glass House in the scary Pomona arts colony. I was stoked to hear that local O.C. band My Superhero was still playing, especially since I haven't seen them after I bought their new disc. So, I made my way to the front with my friend only to find out that only I was on the guest list. So we hung outside for awhile and I heard My Superhero through the glass (hence the name glass house—get it hahahahaha---editor tries comedy and fails miserably). They played a few of my favorites such as "Coley and Steve" and a couple of other tracks I knew from Solid State 14. They sounded good from what I heard. After that, we finally decided to go in.

East Bay's Mr. T Experience performed next. Having not ever heard them before, I pretty much knew what to expect. I was right too. I expected the same stuff that always comes out on Lookout Records (not that that's bad, I enjoy it.). MTH had good material but not much of a stage show. Their songs were very East Bayish. Their songs were as catchy as are most Lookout bands.

In six days God created the world and on the seventh day he created Less Than Jake. Chris (vocals and guitar) came out complete with the Poison shirt and wig. They opened with "Shindoi" which can be found on their newest record Losing Streak. This show consisted a lot of my favorites including a lot of songs from their CD Losers, Kings, and Things We Don't Understand. This show seemed different than other shows of theirs I have had the pleasure of attending. To me, it seemed they have lost that bond between LTJ and the fans. Most of the people there seemed to have known LTJ's Losing Streak songs, because of "Automatic's" widespread radio play, rather than knowing all their previous tunes like the real fans used to. The show just had a different vibe to it. Still, however I did enjoy it. Less Than Jake did play some cool songs like "107" (my favorite), "Johnny Quest Thinks We're Sellouts", and "Liquor Store". Some cover songs were "Laverne and Shirley" and 'You're the One that I Want" (from Grease). They ended the night with two encores with the raucous crowd chanting "LESS THAN JAKE!" I exited the building, hopped in my car, and made a pit stop at 7-11 for a 64 ounce beverage.

-Professor Andrew

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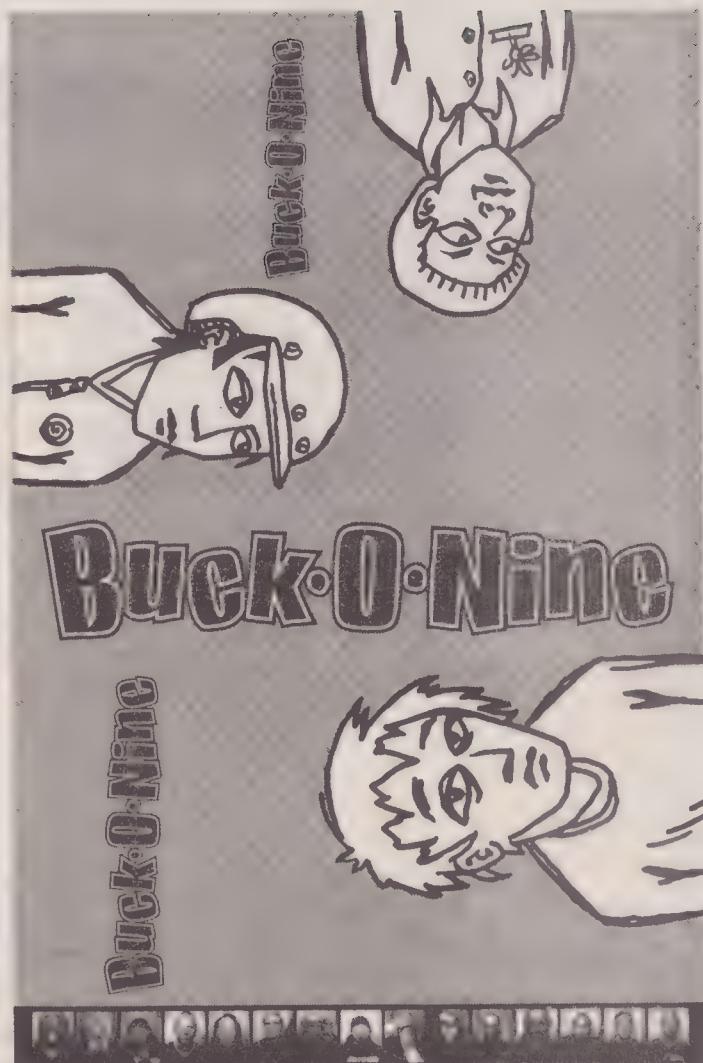
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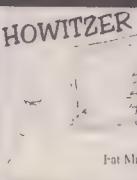
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BRILLIANTINE
VAINGLORY
HEP-CAT RECORDS

With its ultra-distorted vocals on "Credit Card Effigy", Brilliantine could easily prove to be the ideal opener for Beck on the next Lollapalooza tour. But more often, their off kilter drumbeats underneath gentle and slightly out tune heartfelt guitar progressions bring to mind great psychedelic bands like the Velvet Underground (pardon the comparison, if you will). Of course, Chapel Hill is the place to go to hear such perfectly written pop music like

Brilliantine in the '90s. The sad-but-sweet ballad "Crash" on this disc is an obvious standout.

(p.o. box 17022, Chapel Hill, NC 27516)

-David Turbow

FINAL CONFLICT
REBIRTH
TACKLE BOX RECORDS

Final Conflict has accomplished something that most of today's hardcore punk bands attempt to do but fail; they mix talent, thought, speed and anger into one dynamic package. Their overall style is very original with apparent influences from bands such as Crass, Black Flag, Minor Threat and even Sepultura. The lyrics sung by Ron are brutally honest and the point, which is complimented by the unrelenting harshness of the music. With song titles like "New Christ," "Heretic" and "Catharsis" it's obvious that Final Conflict isn't for Green Day and Offspring fans, but rather those who looking for more than happy pop-punk.

-Jason Chittenden



GOODBYE HARRY
I CAN SMOKE
CRUZ RECORDS

This album reminds me of the Descendents with a dash of early They Might Be Giants. And sometimes they would throw in some country elements with some tangy surf guitar. Nothing to do cartwheels over. But a nice attempt to be different, which is always good in my book. Who gives a shit about your book anyway. What an asshole!!!

-Dan Gruia

DRAGSTRIP
REACTION TIME
SHREDDER

An up-tempo surf rock album, on which Frankie Camaro Jova plays guitar (and occasionally sings), Tim Hommey plays bass, and Thomas Matthew hits drums. They do a cool cover of "Don't Fear The Reaper". The progressions get really groovy in some places with whammy bars and overdoses of Fender Twin reverb. It somehow connects to dragstrips and Indianapolis raceway park.

(75 Plum Lane #3, San Rafael, CA 94901)

-David Turbow



HORACE PINKER
BURN TEMPE TO THE GROUND C.D.
ONE FOOT RECORDS

The problem with most pop punk is that it's not played by punks, but by jock minded musicians looking to cash in on the current wave of punk popularity. Therefore, a lot of it is shit in my book. If you can't live the life, don't play the music. That being said, HORACE PINKER is exempt from that thought. On their newest disc they offer solid catchy tuneage that will please most, I would even dare say that they are reminiscent of PROPAGANDH's more pop moments. Production-wise the band retains an abrasive edge instead of going for the overproduced sterile sound which seems to be overflowing the market lately. Overall, this disc has all the important elements that make for a good record and anyone willing to shell out some cash for the latest drivel from whatever new pop-punk label would be much better off taking a chance on this.

-Maynard Krebs



LATEX GENERATION
360 DEGREES
ONE FOOT RECORDS

A goofy catchy punk rock album featuring such songs as "Daddy was a Communist", "Fuck Me, I'm A Rock Star", and "Killed the President". A must have, if extending your middle finger and drinking beer are your favorite pastimes. LATEX GENERATION also covers Poison's "Fallen Angel".

(P.O. Box 99, Albertson, N.Y. 11507)

-David Turbow



SHONEN KNIFE
BRAND NEW KNIFE
BIG DEAL RECORDS

"Thursday, I drive to a toy shop and I buy a Barbie doll. Friday, I go to see the Kinks. Dancing, screaming and drinking beer"-an excerpt from the lyrics to "One Week". It's simply impossible to not love these Japanese princesses of pop. Their accents are sooo cute, and their matching outfits are just too adorable. Most of the songs were written by Naoko Yamanaka, except for a few by Michie Nakatani and one penned by the band collectively.

Dissing SHONEN KNIFE would be like putting gum in your little sister's hair.

-David Turbow



LUNACHICKS
PRETTY UGLY
GO KART

The last sweet taste of the Lunachicks I had was an arousing live show last Sept. I fell in love that night with Squid (bassist) and the rest of these fine-looking women. In the meantime, I've just been pacing around my room, afraid to make contact with the outside world, waiting for another Lunachicks fix. Then, in a very life-threatening moment, I saw a new ad for a brand new record, but then I saw a name in this ad and my heart practically stopped (hence, the reason for using the adverb "life-threatening"). the name I'm referring to is, I guess he is the so-called "guest" producer. I will not repeat his name because IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT!

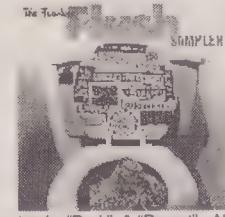
This 4th full length album by these 5 amazingly, seductive ladies (especially Squid) is a bonafide beaut!

This follow-up record to a "Jerk of All Trades" is, as I believe, not as fun or exciting as past albums, but can definitely hold its own.

Fourteen original songs including some great fast paced rippers, an instrumental, a few satire-like sad songs (Squid, sorry about your beloved gerbil), but upbeat. I am having trouble with one song (maybe a first time attempt at a ballad) and if I ever make a decision about it, maybe I'll tell you jerks about it!

My final thought; anything you see with the name Lunachicks from N.Y.C., you must realize, it is probably too cool for your ears. How about a "fuck you" to Brucey!!

-John Carl Paul



THE FEARLESS FLUSH SAMPLER
FEARLESS RECORDS

Is the toilet stuffed with cash on the front cover a reference to a now disbanded problem which cost Bob Becker a lot of dough? Speaking of the Grabbers, they are to be found here amongst the 24! tracks to be found on this punk rock smorgasborg. Check the ripping tracks by Glue Gun "the Scene is Not For Sale" & the unreleased "Life Sentence"....newcomers 30 Foot Fall, straight up power from Straight Faced, and of course, the ever reliable White Kaps (featuring an unreleased track "Dork" & "Regret"). Also Chuck, Blount, Drunk in Public, Big Wig and Dead Lazlo's PI ("Waiting for the Armo" by Dead Lazlo's PI. portends big things to come). RECOMMENDED.

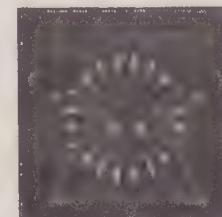
-Mel Torment



SALMON
PACO...DROP THE CHICKEN
RED ANT RECORDS

I'm pretty sure that I saw this Gilroy, CA band pounding and grooving on the second stage at Camp KOME in San Jose over the summer. My impression of them.. A tight and talented high energy hip hop core (or is it rap metal?) band in the vein of 311, Deftones, and Rage Against the Machine. Several songs, such as "Star Flakes" and "Voltron" have jazzy instrumental breaks to keep the mix fresh.

-David Turbow



CLAY PEOPLE
STONE-TEN STITCHES C.D.
RECONSTRUCTION/CARGO

Now that MINISTRY has become a straight ahead metal band we will all have to go elsewhere for a dose of cyber-pummeling and with this release, CLAY PEOPLE deliver. Heavy rhythms accompanied with chunky guitars and beautifully abrasive vocals take you down a dark road of melodic cacophony. From the screaming opening track to the, dare I say, almost radio friendly closing song, the band shows much growth since their last e.p. without sacrificing any of the bands primal energy that makes them so devastating. Beautifully violent the bands is at their best when they are assaulting with their heavy mix of distorted guitar and technology but even the middle eastern influenced cut "Spiders Bride" works well here and is easily one of my favorites. Great.

-Maynard Krebs

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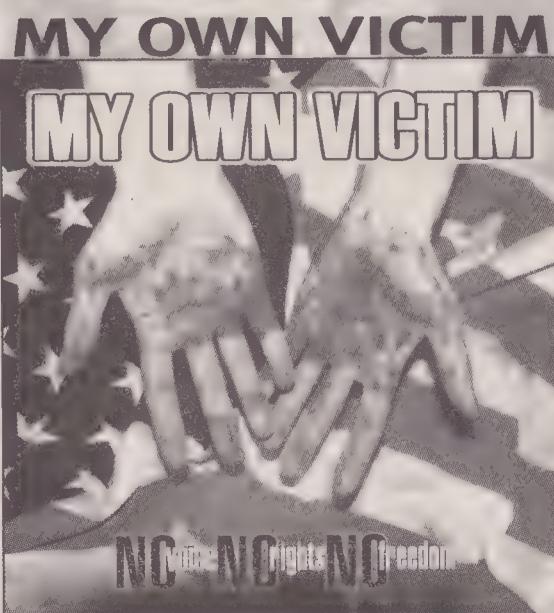
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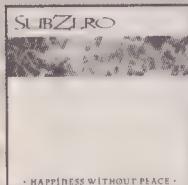


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The Path That We Have Paved
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DEAD AND GONE
GOD LOVES EVERYONE BUT YOU
ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS

With an album title like God Loves Everyone But You, I was really curious as to what this CD had to offer. What I discovered was some of the most intriguing and eclectic music I've heard to date. Dead And Gone's musical style is reminiscent of the Dead Kennedys during in its slower parts, but when the music speeds up it's like punkified death-metal with an actual direction. The lyrics are very haunting with both its content and the vocals, which go from whispering lows to howling highs in a split second. 'The Chemist' shows exactly how diverse Dead And Gone can be through the coarse of one track. In conclusion, if you are searching for something that defies a genre category; check out the extremely eclectic Dead And Gone.

-Jason Chittenden

GAMEFACE

CUPCAKES

DR. STRANGE RECORDS

This is just a five song EP from Gameface. I was expecting something with more substance, but I guess the Dr. knows best. A very very melodic punk/alternative EP. It left me hanging like a two dollar ho. Call me if you don't know where to find a two dollar ho, because I know where they hang out.

-Dan Gruia



SPACEMEN 3

SINGLES

TAANG! RECORDS

Fire Records in London was kind enough to license this 80 minute collection of SPACEMEN 3 singles from Taang! Records. Some of the best known stuff from this highly influential psychedelic/experimental pop band can be found on this disc, including: "Walkin' With Jesus (Sound of Confusion)", "Transparent Radiation (Flashback)", and "Take Me to the Other Side".

(706 Pismo CT San Diego, CA 92109)

-David Turbow



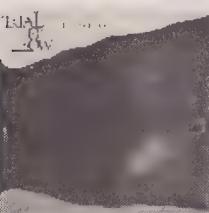
KISS IT GOODBYE

SHE LOVES ME, SHE LOVES ME NOT...

REVELATION RECORDS

If you've heard of Revelation Records then you know what they like. Kiss It Goodbye is loud, hard, and core to the bone. A very intense release. It's something that you can screw your balls off, till they drop. Oh, and don't forget to buy her flowers the next day. You know- to show off your sensitive side. Dummy!!!

-Dan Gruia



TRAIL OF THE BOW

RIGHT OF PASSAGE C.D.

RELEASE/RELAPSE RECORDS

A wildly imaginative work. Mostly acoustic and instrumental, this disc paints mental pictures of vast deserts and mysterious temples of worship where the goddess resides. To describe this as "world music" would be an understatement, this is mind music. Using Middle Eastern influences and a vast array of instruments this goes from haunting to almost spiritually uplifting. Anyone into DEAD CAN DANCE would be foolish not to pick this up. The near perfect sculptured soundtrack feel of this disc takes the listener away, a mesmerizing piece of work.

-Maynard Krebs



FEVERDREAM

YOU DON'T KNOW US, BUT WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE

SATELLITE RECORDS

Between the coarse, scratchy vocals ala Ewan McArthur and -sometimes textured-sometimes draining-sometimes dissonant guitar melodies you have an interesting brit-pop-70's-feel thang going. Reminiscent of Charlatans U.K., Blur, and The Church. Good for acid dropping/background score music in the next Oliver Stone film/and/or a little mood music to get your partner a little frisky. Come and get it.

-Mike Tendow



REFUSED

EVERLASTING

EQUAL VISION RECORDS

Refused are Swedish hard-core that thunder as they carpet bomb your sense of hearing. Some of the songs were philosophical. Others sounded like they woke up on the wrong side of the bed. If you ever in Sweden give them a visit at: Glutens Vag 8907 37 UMEA BEWARE: It's only an EP.

-Sgt. Dave Dobson



MUSTARD PLUG
EVILDOERS BEWARE
HOPELESS RECORDS

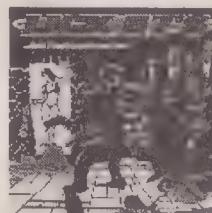
Now I know Lewis, and Lewis is no dope, proving it by signing the goofy but ska solid Mustard Plug who have presented us with this effort. Cool graphics, and 12 tracks of poppy, horn happy ska tunes. Not much being said, naturally, but then, when your drunk and happy, who the fuck cares? Good beats, good swings and decent brass. Check out the infectious "Mendoza" which even I liked. Hey, an album I could play when my parents come over. Maybe this ska stuff isn't all that bad. LIKE SKA? RECOMMENDED. FOR OTHERS, MUCH BETTER THAN MOST SKA.

-Mel Torment

FAXED HEAD
EXHUMED AT BIRTH C.D.
AMARILLO RECORDS

Depending on who you talk to FAXED HEAD is a band comprised of disfigured students from Coalinga High School, or MR. BUNGLE. Regardless, what we have here is the bands obvious attempt at parodying the black metal genre and they end up releasing a record that would make Satan proud. While idiots like DARK THRONE and BURZUM are trying their hardest to record something of substance FAXED HEAD has issued a great black metal record without even trying! Sounding genuinely more disturbing and scarier than most bands from the aforementioned genre, the record takes a good natured jab at a music scene that has taken itself seriously for far too long. A black metal purist would have a hard time figuring out the humor in this disc had not a lyric sheet been provided, "As part of a movie tie-in, Burger King offered a premium, a blacked coffin with a child's meal" is delivered in a morose vocal tone. Evil irony indeed.

-Maynard Krebs



LICK 57'S
AND THE BAND PLAYED ON!
ONE FOOT RECORDS

What do you get when a bunch of frat boys think they can play punk? LICK 57'S This sounds just like everything else out there, mid-tempo pop that sounds like FACE TO FACE, TEN FOOT POLE, ect. not bad, but not great. I'm really getting sick of these cookie cutter bands redoing the same old shit, lets see some originality out there! If you can't get enough of the Fat records sound, go for it but I'll pass.

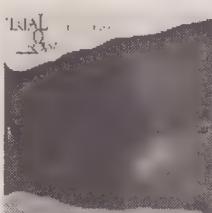
-Maynard Krebs



OS101
SELF TITLED E.P.
RESURRECTION A.D. RECORDS

East coast boys that can't decide whether they want to be the next CIV or poster-children for Fat records. Musically their pretty sharp, solid hooks that you may have heard before but won't have anybody screaming plagiarism. Lyrically these boys deserve a lashing for the self-righteous posturing in "Heatseekers" where they blast with religious fervor an ode to "Mother Mary Queen of all souls", oh brother. Spirit filled N.Y.C., Jesus fucking Christ.

-Maynard Krebs



TRAIL OF THE BOW
RIGHT OF PASSAGE C.D.
RELEASE/RELAPSE RECORDS

A wildly imaginative work. Mostly acoustic and instrumental, this disc paints mental pictures of vast deserts and mysterious temples of worship where the goddess resides. To describe this as "world music" would be an understatement, this is mind music. Using Middle Eastern influences and a vast array of instruments this goes from haunting to almost spiritually uplifting. Anyone into DEAD CAN DANCE would be foolish not to pick this up. The near perfect sculptured soundtrack feel of this disc takes the listener away, a mesmerizing piece of work.

Maynard Krebs



TRIPFACE
SOME PART SORROW"
EXIT RECORDS

Hailing from Long Island, and I don't mean Locust Valley or Lockjaw Ridge, comes the straight edge band Tripface. Blending equal parts heaviness with just enough well directed spite, 13 solid tracks of Suction like fullness, highlighted by clean production and song arrangements which are a step beyond a lot of bands these days. Throw in lots of tempo changes, lots of honesty and some good old fashioned rage which boarders on the nihilistic and its enough to keep the tracks on this album charging. Check "Still Here" for impact and Qa cover version of Twisted Sisters "I want to Rock you" for some well aimed humor. RECOMMENDED.

-Mel Torment

ENEWETAK**GUNS, ELVIS LOVED THEM L.P.****KISS OF STEEL RECORDS**

The only thing Elvis loved more than guns was fried food and pharmaceuticals and we all know what that got him, keeling over on the shitter. Hands down ENNEWETAK is one of the coolest power-violence bands in O.C. and most of you have never heard of them. They have already released 2 e.p.'s, a full length and more on the way so wise up fuckers and get with the program. Combining elements of DEADGUY, R. PENI, and later period BLACK FLAG, the band is intent on creating a new sound instead of copying another and the result is vicious. The band shifts from SABBATH-like heaviness to total snare-core accompanied by vocalist Forrest's tortured screams of isolation and distrust. There is something evil in the city of Orange and its name is ENNEWETAK. A total mindfuck, vinyl only, buy a turntable you loser.

-Maynard Krebs


**SEVEN GONE
CALMEST VOICE
TEMPERANCE RECORDS**

The three song cd, now that's a waste of a decent band! I hope SEVEN GONE have a full length album coming out. This kinda reminds me of Nirvana, and if you like that kind of alternative music you'll flip over SEVEN GONE. Go get this, it's probably really cheap.

-Dan Gruia


**HARVEST
LIVING WITH A GOD COMPLEX
TRUSTKILL RECORDS**

These lyrics are from "Virtue": "Dedication to discipline. Endurance of self-separation. Sustained the scene to remain. Give to the feeling, control your life. Empower. Slave, suffer. Never will I ignore. No more ingestion of submission to this world..." With lyrics like that who needs a review?

-Dan Gruia


**CHRIST
ONLY EVERY OTHER DAY
TEMPERANCE RECORDS**

Hardcore-emo-core. Call it what you want. But, Christ offers something more edgy and melodic to my ears than the usual hardcore bruteness. If I had more time I could pull more shit like that outta my asshole (reference to my creative outflow/good word usage like bruteness). Best way to describe Christ is eerie and brand their own bad ass hard music with power and uumph.

-Dan Gruia


**DEAD AND GONE
GOD LOVES EVERYONE BUT YOU
ALTERNATIVE TENTACLES RECORDS**

With an album title like God Loves Everyone But You, I was really curious as to what this CD had to offer. What I discovered was some of the most intriguing an eclectic music I've heard to date. Dead And Gone's musical style is reminiscent of the Dead Kennedys during in its slower parts, but when the music speeds up it's like punkified death-metal with an actual direction. The lyrics are very haunting with both its content and the vocals, which go from whispering lows to howling highs in a split second. "The Chemist" shows exactly how diverse Dead And Gone can be through the coarse of one track. In conclusion, if you are searching for something that defies a genre category; check out the extremely eclectic Dead And Gone.

-Jason Chittenden

HIS HERO IS GONE**FIFTEEN COUNTS OF ARSON L.P./C.D.****PRANK RECORDS**

A monster, a brutal vicious monster that rips your genitals off and feeds them to the hounds of hell. Words cannot describe the brutality contained within this disc, what we have here is the sound of absolute destruction. A force to be reckoned with, that is redefining the boundaries of hard-core and leaving the listener drained. This is beyond murder-core this is Armageddon, if you are a fan of extreme music do not pass this up.

-Maynard Krebs

THE SUGARFREAKS**S/T 12" E.P.****V.M.L. RECORDS**

Sugar coated 60's garage stuff ala PANDORAS with a dash of punk for edge. Not too bad, good female vox that refrain from sounding whiny and when the band rocks, they do it well ("I Hope You're Happy") but rely too much on simple pop which just kinda lays there. Too many lows, not enough highs.

-Maynard Krebs

VARIOUS**AMERICA IN DECLINE L.P.****SIX WEEKS RECORDS**

For those into real punk, have I got a slab for you. If your idea of hard-core is a PENNYWISE or BLINK c.d. stay away and suckle mommas teat till your big enough to play with the big boys. Offering a dose of styles, this l.p. delivers the goods and more. Intense maniacal mayhem coming at you in overdrive and beating you senseless, never letting up. 26 bands blasting at you and no bullshit in the bunch, check out MISANTHROPISTS, BROTHER INFERIOR, BENUMB, THE CRIMINALS, FUCKFACE, SHOWCASE SHOWDOWN, ABSTAIN --too much amazing stuff to list. A crucial listen to anyone into underground h/c and punk, and no c.d., vinyl only chump.

-Maynard Krebs


**SPARKMARKER
500WATTBURNERATSEVEN
CRISIS RECORDS/REVELATION**

I saw these Canadian pounders at the Lava Room in Costa Mesa and was immediately impressed with their intensity and tightness. So young and wholesome, and yet so pissed off! They have an attribute that only a few bands like Tar really had- that is every single song containing relentless tension from beginning to end. While "500watt" is a solidly produced bass heavy power driven album with jugg-jugg-jugg-jugg odd-metered song structures, their sound might be a bit too similar to Jesus Lizard ("Keep the Quarter") to some discriminating ears. A very strong recommendation, nevertheless. (p.o. box 1457 bentall centre, vancouver, bc, canada, V6C 2P7)

-David Turbow


**DIATRIBE
S/T C.D.
RECONSTRUCTION/CARGO RECORDS**

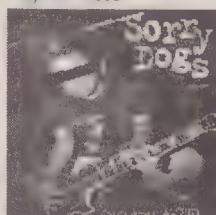
After two great e.p.'s I was anxiously awaiting a full length from this San Jose outfit, and after not being immediately impressed with this disc I have found it to really grow on me. What we have is a more mature DIATRIBE that has decided to test the limits of their abilities and almost entirely succeed. Opening with a false, almost techno intro "Sick the Dogs" bursts forth with thick heavy guitars and a brooding drive that had me cranking the stereo up for maximum effect. Overall the disc stays on the course of hard rhythms but not content to stay with formula DIATRIBE, experiments a bit with a few soothing textured cuts and unfortunately that's where the band does trip up a bit, (with the techno-pop "Lands End"), but make up for it when they pound away on "Web" and the tribal fueled closing track "Freaks" where the band is in top form expelling techno-violence. A mixed bag of some fine hard and mature industrial that I recommend to any newcomers to the genre.

-Maynard Krebs


**NEW SPEEDWAY KINGS
ALL AGES SHOW C.D. E.P.
SHREDDER RECORDS**

Raw, bouncy pogo punk with a vocalist that sounds like a cross between Ben Weasel and Sid Vicious. Six songs (including a cover of R.E.M.'s "Everything") to keep the teenyboppers dancin away till the next FIFTEEN or P. GUNPOWDER release. Lyrically the band keeps it safe writing about personal topics and girls (how original for their genre!), but as a whole this discs' not too bad for the type of stuff that it is.

-Maynard Krebs


**SORRY DOGS
NO DOGS ALOUD
AFFINITY MUSIC**

Hmmmm...sounds like a Flipside type band. Speaking of flips--didn't do any. The guitarists need to play with Guns-N-Roses or Poison with their metal solos and guitarisms. Not really sure how to classify the San Diego outfit, but the vocals sometimes remind me of Geddy Lee. The band's tight and I'll give them that, but I expected punk rock. Oh, well.

-Mike Tendow


**PENNYWISE
FULL CIRCLE
EPITAPH**

Pennywise dedicates this cd to "the life, music, and memory of Jason Thirk" and I recommend it with high regards to you punk boys and girls. With introspective lyrics and great sing-alongs, the four-piece display a little punky power. (Remember In Scooby Doo-when they would say Puppy Power?) Uhh, hello? Anyone still reading? Uhh... Plain and simple- this is an excellent album from start to finish. It's punk with a ration of passion. Very cool-the album that is, not me-I'm a dork.

-Scott Presant

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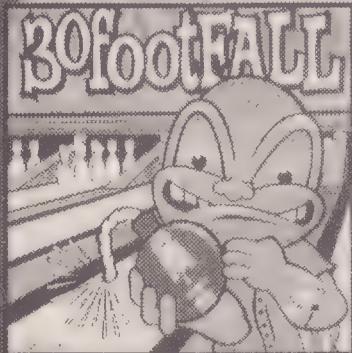
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**FEARLESS
RECORDS.**



VASOLINE TUNER
Beyond Repair
T.O.N. RECORDS

This bizarro disc turns like "Sister" era Sonic Youth, Tom Waits and the Butthole Surfers thrown into a blender on the chop setting. "Shit piss fuck yeah, there's a Homo in a Wheelchair" go the words to one song about Paris. "What's so special about your pussy, is it supersonic?" muses singer Billy Tsounis in another song about . . . well, pussy! One quickly formulates the impression that these guys aren't just pretending to be demented, they

genuinely are.

-David Turbow

BLITHE
VERSE CHORUS VERSE
ALIAS RECORDS

Maybe if I was ten years older with two kids, Blithe might be my cup of tea. But right now I've still got two balls. Which is more than I can, oh- wait a minute track five "Hell of Man" just came on, now that's more like it. Rock on Blithe. Oh and let's not forget track nine "Hard Liner" not bad, it gave me a little jolt.

-Dan Gruia

SAGES OF MEMPHIS
YEAR OF THE ELEPHANT

Fatcatsmodern psychedelic groove a la Dave Matthews or Phish, will most likely dig SAGES OF MEMPHIS. The musical talent is impressive particularly through songwriter Simon Flick's funky electric/ acoustic guitar (and even banjo instrumentations), which primarily stem from the influence of Carlos Santana. Jay Escobarte utilizes congas, bongos, and chicare in his percussion repertoire very well. I couldn't leave out Dave Napolitan's bass harmonics, slaps, and arpeggio runs, which will surely impress the musician/aficionado.

-David Turbow



SHE BOP: THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN ROCK, POP + SOUL
LUCY O'BRIEN
PENGUIN BOOKS (paperback) \$14.95

British author Lucy O'Brien played in a punk band in her high school days and went on to become a successful music journalist, as well as a biographer of Dusty Springfield and Annie Lennox. She has also worked in the production end of radio and television, so brings multifaceted experience in the entertainment industry to her subject. Rather than organizing She Bop chronologically, O'Brien divides her subjects into themes and types of music for her chapters. Her first chapter covers blues, jazz and big band (a long time span) as well as a lot of performers, but in it she displays one of her chief strengths as a writer -- the ability to take a lot of information and mold it into interesting, digestible chunks. I thought I knew quite a bit about women in music, but I had probably only heard of half of the women she writes about here, including Memphis Minnie, who recorded over 200 sides in 30 years and was a major influence on the music of Muddy Waters, Big Mama Thornton and Chuck Berry. And I certainly hadn't heard of Leona Henderson's dance band, The Twelve Vampires.

Another strength of She Bop lies in its organization. By presenting the music and the performers on thematic lines, O'Brien is able to group together artists as diverse as X-Ray Spex, PJ Harvey, Laurie Anderson and Courtney Love -- all performers united in their urge to go against the grain and to subvert the traditional feminine stance in music. Her chapter entitled "Madonna, Manipulation and MTV" includes an analysis of how important image is for women in the music business and links it to Karen Carpenter's death from anorexia. Again, by putting unlikely musicians together, O'Brien gives us some new insights instead of simply rehashing what has been said before.

Each chapter is so interesting that it's difficult to single out the best. The chapters on world music and rap and reggae are very appealing, because not nearly as much has been written about women who play these kinds of music. And here in America, we are a little farther out of the world beat loop than are listeners in Europe, where some of these performers are forced to live because of the clash between their and their home countries' politics.

I can't honestly say that I've read any book about music that so thoroughly covers such a big subject. Some readers might be put off by O'Brien's seriousness about her subject. This isn't a book with lots of amusing, gossipy anecdotes like Please Kill Me. It's much closer to Jon Savage's book about the Sex Pistols and punk rock in the U.K., England's Dreaming. A discography would have been a great addition, but given the scope of the book, would have doubled its length. So . . . if you care about music, buy this book; you'll definitely expand your mind and musical horizons. And if you are ever engaged in an argument about women's contributions to popular music, you'll be able to shut the fiercest woman basher down. And that's a real kick!

-Marcia Taylor



TENSION
AGENT OF THE PEOPLE
UPRISING RECORDS

Hmm, a south Florida based thinking mans Hardcore band on Laguna Beach based uprising records. Thick churning guitars with stomp ass percussion to give it a fast heavy groove, and good issue based lyrics to get anger down with. Scope out the wind up of "Greed", it's classic build up into speed. "Fallen Proud" is my kind of statement making song, while "Stand Aside" is my kind of punkcore thrash. These guys capture the same kind of socio-political intensity as, say Rage Against the Machine, but with more anger, fewer clichés and a more pure, musical base of heavy thrash. Great production, 10 tracks of music to make you think while you grind. Feel the rage, know the reason. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

-Mel Torment



ONE HIT WONDER
OUTFALL
NITRO RECORDS

The latest release from Long Beach's One Hit Wonder takes a bit of a different of a musical direction than on their prior releases; Outfall has much more of a melodic-pop-punk sound. All of the songs on this album are very similar with no song really standing above the rest. Not a whole lot of creativity nor originality is exhibited on this release. Now don't get me wrong, the new One Hit Wonder album is decent, but is almost a carbon copy of a majority of the bands on Epitaph.

-Jason Chittenden



UK SUBS
OCCUPIED
FALL OUT/JUNGLE RECORDS

From the 1st track (Let's Get Drunk) you get a feel for the rest of the CD! Shit!! This is old school punk if I ever heard it! What a mess it was! There were some very cool selections such as "Solutions". This reggae influenced tune just had a very cool melody and nice fat rhythm part- a nice combo. "God Bless Amerikkka" was their Ska venture, but it would've been better with horns! "Not So Secret War" was the pump up song! When it was playing, I started to pit with my dog in the living room! Now that's funny! If you like old school- buy it- it's cool.

-RAYOS-X



V/A
LATIN SKA VOL. III
MOON SKA RECORDS

This was a great CD! I dug every track! Very well put together by Moon Ska. They managed to get a lil' flavor of many different Latin countries and other regions. U.S., European & So. American bands were included. If you dig Ska, check this CD out, you'll get a kick out of the trippy instrumentation. Tracks to check out include: . . . CASTILLO Y LA RABIA (New York) has a cool catchy tune that starts the CD "Si vuelve conmigo"; CALZONES ROTOS (Argentina) "Reggae del Mundo Moderno"; DELICUENCIA SONORA (Madrid) "Isla Deception"; MAROON TOWN (London) "Cumbia Infernal". These are just a few selections (there are 17 total). All of them rico suave- spice up your Ska with some salsa.

-RAYOS-X



SO WHAT
EDDY
LOST & FOUND RECORDS

So what? Why not? American punk from Germany? what the hell? Sounds pretty cool. Me think you like, jes! These guys are funny, sarcastic- punk attitude all the way. They'll sing about anything, just so long as they play hard and loud. "Burn for Allah", "Fantastic 4 Stop the War" and "Michigan Militia" are some of my favorite tunes. Definitely try to pick up this CD, you will enjoy- Danke!

-RAYOS-X



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-Dan Gruia

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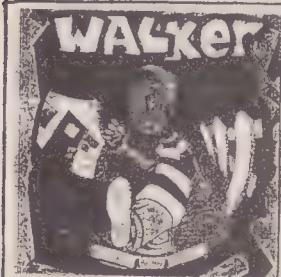
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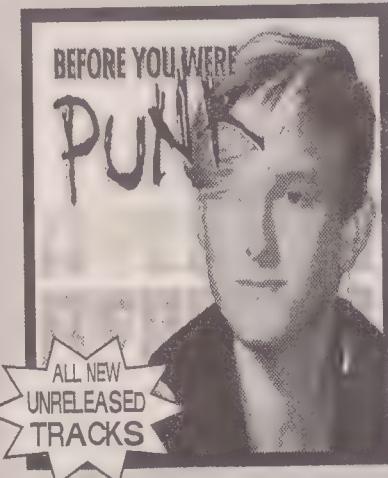
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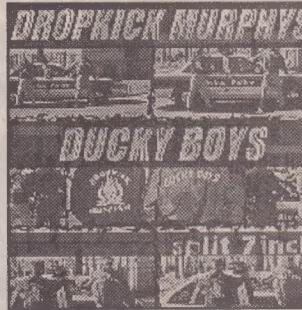
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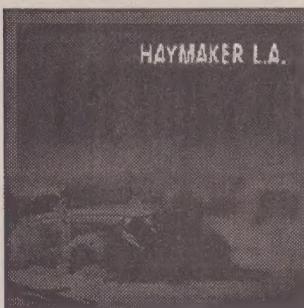
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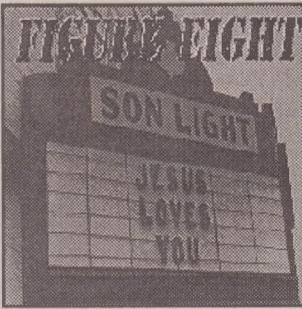
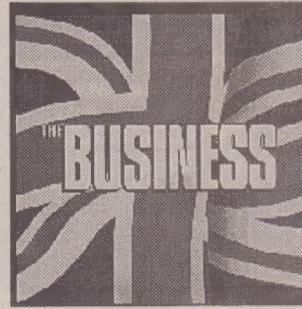


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